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Yeltsin Intends To Enhance CIS Efficiency

LD0902152794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1138 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] The Russian president's aide, Dmitriy Ryurikov, told Interfax that the Russian leadership was drafting a package of initiative on enhancing the efficiency of the CIS, to be discussed during the next CIS summit in Moscow in March.

He said that President Yeltsin, elected the CIS's first chairman during the Ashgabat summit, was going to use his status to the best advantage. "There is no talk about Russia's special role," he said. "However, in view of its colossal intellectual and organizational potential Russia can give the necessary impetus to the CIS's development," he added.

Russia continues drafting documents on several aspects of interaction between the CIS countries. In the first place, the declaration on economic union must be implemented, and this document must be supplemented with agreements on free trade, customs union, and the payment of the debts.

Every effort must be made to ensure the transparency of the CIS borders and to protect the CIS's external borders jointly.

He said a concept of the CIS's collective security must be drafted, based on the principles of voluntariness and equality. The state possessing the largest resources might provide a basis for military cooperation, he said.

In the humanitarian sphere, a covenant of human rights might be created to ensure the observance of political, social and property rights throughout the CIS, said Ryurikov.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 10 Feb

LD1002073094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0543 GMT 10 Feb 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 10—Today's newspapers do not focus on a single topic. The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper carries an interview with the Russian president's assistant Viktor Ilyushin who notes: "There is a segment of people who regard themselves democrats and are in a state of constant struggle.

"When Ryzhkov was cabinet head, they fought Ryzhkov. When Gorbachev became president, they fought Gorbachev. They are now fighting Yeltsin. I'm not sure that if another political leader comes into office in the future, they will stop fighting him. Although it is hard for us to live through all this, but this is a disease of our teenage years, I mean teenage years of democracy."

The same newspaper comments on a visit by Azeri President Geydar Aliyev to Turkey, noting: "The policy pursued by Geydar Aliyev completely convinced Ankara of the need for close cooperation with the new Azeri authorities.

"Besides, a concept put forth by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on ensuring Moscow's strategic interests in the Commonwealth of Independent States, which provides for conducting peace-keeping operations in 'flash points' by Russian troops, is evidently not to the liking of Turkey having its own interests in Azerbaijan."

NEZAVISIMAYA reports in another article that 1,181 emergencies were registered in the Russian Federation in 1993, with the number of casualties reaching 10,133. Out of the total, 1,224 people died.

The newspaper claims that "the year 1994 will witness a possible increase in the number of breakdowns and disasters on all types of transport, in the extracting and processing industries, expecially at mines, oil, gas and chemical enterprises, which will be caused by deteriorating repair work, delayed replacement of outdated mechanisms, unstable management of production, low technological and labour discipline and lower responsibility for labour safety."

The TRUD newspaper features an interview with former First Vice- Premier Yegor Gaydar who holds that "an amnesty is inopportune now". Explaining his viewpoint, he notes that "crime is rampant in the country.

"Moreover, the work on the previous amnesty has just been completed. The new amnesty has been poorly prepared organisationally. The declaration of an amnesty decree creates an illusion of impunity for a number of crimes listed in the decree."

The ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI newspaper runs an article by prominent economist Yevgeniy Yasin, director of the expert institute of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, who says: "The process of forming a market economy is progressing, irrespective of likes or dislikes of the government, the academy of sciences or anybody else.

"It is connected with the setting of new relative prices and new price proportions. They are being formed, despite interferences caused by the structure of our economy.

"An analysis we carried out last autumn shows that prices approach world ones where they are not regulated. This is a positive process on the whole. Regrettably, it has negative aspects, since enterprises feel that while in the past they had comfortable life and correleration of prices, production costs, technologies, etc. were balanced, they are upset now.

"However, if there were no disbalances, there would be no impetus for restructuring."

The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper runs an interview with Gennadiy Voronin, deputy chairman of the

Russian State Committee on Munitions Industries, who states that the Russian Navy is now living through "a stage of delapidation.

"Time is needed for what we should do to overcome this stage in compliance with the new military doctrine: to do with small numbers but high quality. Regrettably, the Navy lacks this quality to acquire new properties that is it has no new high precision weapons, advanced ships, control systems, etc.

"To tell the truth, we do not have now a programme for combat materiel we earlier had for 10 or 15 years ahead. We have been waiting for it for 18 months. It has been compiled and initialled.

"However, it is not yet an official document which could be sent to our factories. I believe that it will be approved in the first quarter of this year."

The SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper carries an interview with Pyotr Romanov, member of the Federation Council (upper chamber of the Russian parliament), in whose opinion "it is a crime to say, as some politicians do, that we shall live better this year.

"They had no right to extrapolate on our country some or other programme drafted or tested somewhere in the West. Russia is neither Germany, nor Poland, nor America, nor still Israel. Our Russian people handle a situation and appraise it in their own way."

The same newspaper runs an interview with defence lawyers of former parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, saying that "if the court does not give a political appraisal to this case (eds: events of September-October 1993 in Moscow), this will be totally wrong".

The PRAVDA newspaper reports that Russian Procurator-General Aleksandr Kazannik visited Ruslan Khasbulatov at the Lefortovo prison in Moscow at the latter's request.

The newspaper claims that "according to leaked information, the exchange of opinions between the two former associates in the democratic camp (eds: Khasbulatov was elected parliament speaker with solid support from Yeltsin) resembled a dialogue between the deaf and the blind".

Churkin Leaves for Geneva With Proposals on Sarajevo

LD0902144194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Vitaliy Churkin, special envoy of the Russian president, left for Geneva today. The next round on the Bosnia settlement starts there on Thursday. INTERFAX reports that the Russian diplomat will put forward several proposals concerning the demilitarization of the Sarajevo area and putting it under UN management for the transition period.

Russian Proposal Viewed

LD0902221894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1952 GMT 9 Feb 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] Reliable sources in the Russian Foreign Ministry have told Interfax that the Russian president's special envoy, deputy Russian Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, leaves Wednesday for Geneva to take part in the Thursday round of talks on settlement of the Bosnian crisis.

Under consideration in Geneva will be the Russian proposal on demilitarization of the area around Sarajevo and its transfer under UN authority for a transitional period, a senior diplomat has told Interfax.

He believes under present conditions the Russian initiative has a good chance of being approved by the conflicting Bosnian factions. In addition to the representatives of the warring sides, taking part in the talks will be co-chairmen of the international conference on settlement in the former Yugoslavia Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, as well as special envoys of the Russian and U.S. presidents, Vitaliy Churkin and Charles Redman.

The diplomat said that the Russian initiative opens the way for a peaceful settlement of the Bosnian crisis. "We believe that the proposal on air strikes to support UN forces in the former Yugoslavia is the worst of all possible options," he said. The implementation of the Russian initiative would solve the problem, said the diplomat.

He said that most European countries believe that there are enough UN Security Council resolutions to allow NATO air strikes in Bosnia-Herzegovina if the Secretary-General asks for them. Russia does not share such an approach because it believes the decision on air strikes should be taken by the UN Security Council, he said.

The diplomat said that the NATO countries would advance a sort of ultimatum to the conflicting sides. Judging by everything, he said, they will be demanded to stop shelling of Sarajevo, withdraw within seven days all heavy weaponry from the adjacent region, and hand it over under UN control. If the demands are not met, NATO planes will be ready to make air strikes on the violating party, he said.

Meets With Greek, Italian Ministers

LD0902220494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2108 GMT 9 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva February 9 TASS—Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin met in Geneva on Wednesday with Foreign Ministers Karolos Papoulias of Greece and Beniamino Andreatta of Italy and Co-Chairmen of the Coordinating Committee of the Conference on Former Yugoslavia Thorvald Stoltenberg and David Owen to discuss Bosnian settlement.

The talks focused on problems concerning the settlement of the Yugoslav crisis, including the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The participants in the talks expressed concern about the aggravation of the situation in the region, following the bomb explosion in Sarajevo marketplace last Saturday which killed 68 and wounded over 200 people.

Kozyrev Sends Letter to Butrus-Ghali on Air Strikes

LD0902134394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1138 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Reliable sources in the Russian Foreign Ministry have told Interfax that Andrey Kozyrev has sent a letter to UN Secretary-General Butrus-Ghali, in which he returned again to the problem of air cover for peacekeeping forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Foreign Minister, the sources said, emphasized in his letter that any strikes, even limited ones, are fraught with heavy consequences. He is sure this will aggravate the situation on all Bosnian fronts and will even jeopardize the UN relief operation, because it will make assistance meaningless.

Kozyrev believes the decision to use air power in Bosnia is solely the prerogative of the UN Secretary-General in consultation with the UN Security Council.

Speaking about the opening of the airport in Tuzla, Kozyrev said that Moscow was sure that only a political solution could be effective.

The main aim of Russia is the same, said Kozyrev. It is the earliest political settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In this plan we fully rely on common sense and the desire of all sides to solve the problem politically.

UN Circulates Kozyrev Letter

LD1002111194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0830 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations February 10 TASS—Russia warns of serious consequences of air strikes in Bosnia-Herzegovina and notes that all issues connected with the use of air force should be settled under the aegis of the U.N. Security Council, says a letter by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev addressed to U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali circulated as a Security Council document here on Wednesday.

The Russian minister said that he read with great attention the letter of January 28 from the U.N. secretary-general to the Security Council president where Butrus-Ghali spelled out versions of the use of air force to ensure the rotation of troops in Srebrenica and to open the airport in Tuzla.

"We regard this letter as an important step aimed at fulfilling provisions of appropriate Security Council resolutions, which rule that all issues pertaining to the use of air force in security areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina and around them to help U.N. peace keepers in implementing their mandate, are to be settled under the leadership of the Security Council, provided there is close cooperation with the U.N. secretary-general," Kozyrev noted.

He wrote: "Frankly speaking, the very possibility of a force cover for opening the airport in Tuzla fills us with misgivings. I'd like to explain: We voted for ensuring security for U.N. peace keepers and do not preclude a direct air cover for U.N. peace keepers in Bosnia and Herzegovina if they are attacked.

"However, one should clearly understand that any strikes, even if limited within the scope of an air cover, will bring about serious consequences. Situation at all the fronts in Bosnia and Herzegovina will sharply deteriorate, which will more likely result in an end to humanitarian aid and will put into jeopardy the entire U.N. operation.

"Taking into account far-reaching consequences of possible decisions on involving air force in Bosnia and Herzegovina, we believe as before that their adoption should be an exclusive prerogative of the U.N. secretary-general in consultation with the U.N. Security Council. You and I have reached a clear understanding, as it seems to me, on this point," the Russian minister stressed.

Kozyrev expressed confidence in the effectiveness of only a political solution of the situation concerning the opening of the airport in Tuzla and called for "the earliest political settlement in Bosnia and Herzegovina".

Yeltsin Warns of Consequences of Air Strikes

AU1002095394 Paris AFP in English 0911 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Moscow, Feb 10 (AFP)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin reacted to NATO's ultimatum to Bosnia's Serbs Thursday [10 February] by warning that the "cure shouldn't be worse than the disease," the daily SEGODNYA reported quoting a presidential spokesman.

Russia, which disapproves of NATO airstrikes against Bosnian Serb positions, as of Thursday morning had not officially reacted to the alliance's ultimatum issued overnight. [passage omitted]

SEGODNYA said Yeltsin discussed the matter over the telephone Wednesday evening with several western leaders without identifying them. [passage omitted]

Several Russian diplomats contacted Thursday declined to comment on NATO's decision saying it was "too delicate an issue." [passage omitted]

Meanwhile the Russian army's daily newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reported Thursday that any ultimatum must be addressed to Bosnia's three warring factions—Muslims, Serbs and Croats—and not only the Serbs.

"Washington's demands that the Serbs pull back their artillery from Sarajevo or face airstrikes are blatantly one-sided," the daily said. "This approach will no doubt be interpreted by the other party to the conflict as an unspoken support."

Moscow Calls For Immediate UNSC Meeting

LD1002134594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1318 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Feb—Russia is proposing that the UN Security Council be immediately convened to examine practical ways for the demilitarization of Sarajevo and the introduction of UN administration there. This was stated at a briefing today by Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department.

He said that "Russia proposes that this session be made open for the participation in the discussion not only of Security Council members but also other interested countries, especially those whose interests are in Bosnia and Herzegovina."

Adamishin on UNSC Meeting

LD1002130894 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] The world continues to discuss the situation in the former Yugoslavia very actively. Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin has stated that Russia is unable to agree with NATO's ultimatum and will insist on the UN Security Council considering the matter of using force in Bosnia.

Adamishin Says Russia Cannot Agree With Ultimatum

LD1002133694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1223 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] NATO's decision to launch air strikes on positions held by Bosnian Serbs, unless those agree to lift their siege of Sarajevo and demilitarize it, has raised many questions, and I do not think that Russia can agree with it, First Deputy Foreign Minister, Anatoliy Adamishin, told Interfax Thursday morning.

Russia's Foreign Ministry, he noted, is drafting a statement in connection with NATO's decision. He said he hopes that his own "preliminary view" coincides with the content and tone of the statement.

As Adamishin said, "if nothing changes, Russia will insist on convening the UN Security Council urgently in order to 'dot all the i's' and return the role of peacekeeper to the UN, or press for 'peace by force,' if all members of the Security Council decide so." According to Russia's first deputy foreign minister, this role cannot be transferred to NATO. "Other countries - our partners - do not want to convene the Security Council for a session," he complained.

According to Interfax's interviewee, Russia stands for resolving the conflict in Bosnia as soon as possible. "Russia's attitude to the acts of violence and massacre in Sarajevo's market is as indignant as that of other countries. There is no controversy in this. The only issue is how to gain the common goal," he said.

Today the main problem is how to unblock Sarajevo, demilitarize the city and place it under UN administration temporarily, Adamishin said. "The Serbs are willing, before a comprehensive solution is gained, to single out this question and resolve it on the following basis - demilitarize Sarajevo and place it under UN administration temporarily. Naturally, this should relate to both sides: the Serbs and the Muslims," he said.

According to the diplomat, NATO's ultimatum raises several issues. "Why should NATO resolve settlement problems, in the form of an ultimatum at that, and threaten to use military methods? This belongs to the competence of the UN, not NATO," Adamishin said.

He disagreed with the arguments under which the UN Secretary- General, Butrus Butrus-Ghali, "granted NATO the prerogative of launching air strikes to unblock Sarajevo." "We do not agree with such an interpretation, because it is wrong. Butrus Butrus-Ghali asked NATO if it is prepared to make its aircraft available, if such a need arises. However he never transferred UN functions to NATO. This has to be sorted out," Adamishin stressed.

He also called for considering how NATO's ultimatum will affect the Geneva talks attended by spokesmen for all Bosnian warring sides which began on Thursday. "How will the talks on unblocking Sarajevo proceed, if the Muslims know that this ultimatum is hanging over the Serbs, that they will have to withdraw their artillery, if they do not want to run the risk of being subjected to air strikes? It's clear that the Muslims will have no great incentive for reaching agreements," the diplomat said.

According to him, Bosnian Muslims "have already become virtually the main obstacle on the road to settlement, since they are preparing for military actions, and are waging military actions, particularly with Croats." "They are trying to gain on the battlefield what they failed to gain at the negotiating table, though at the negotiating table they have gained more than they would have gained by fighting. It is clear that NATO's decision undermines the agreement that should be implemented with the UN participation," Adamishin noted.

According to him, NATO's decision was motivated largely by the public outcry caused by the heart-rending scenes in Sarajevo shown on TV. "However, investigations into that affair have not been concluded yet. In the meantime leaks from the UN office indicate that the Serbs are not necessarily responsible for it. There is no proof of their involvement," Adamishin said.

According to him, "there is an impression that NATO's decision was taken under a scenario worked out by the U.S., France and some other countries, while other nations expressed rather serious doubts on this score." "It's natural that we shall contact the direct participants. President Boris Yeltsin has already sent several messages to President Bill Clinton, warning him against the use of military methods. They will not only fail to lead to a political solution, but may considerably aggravate the situation, make it chaotic, uncontrollable," Adamishin said.

In the near future the Russian president is to have telephone conversations with the leaders of Western countries, including the U.S. and Germany.

Gaydar Says Russia May Resort to Veto

LD0902224894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2004 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Russia's Choice Leader, Yegor Gaydar, believes that Russia "must firmly speak against bombardment of Bosnian Serb positions in the UN and its Security Council." When answering questions privately put to him during a break in the State Duma he said he did not exclude that Russia might resort to the veto if the Security Council voted on the issue of bombardment.

According to Gaydar, "there always exists a temptation to interfere into a conflict and to display decisiveness. However, this often turns out to be a compensation for an inability to see the conflict's roots and to settle it, a compensation for one's own political helplessness."

"I think that the international community must not take this path. Radical unilateral decisions have never brought relief to anyone," Gaydar emphasized.

Envoy Views Air Strikes as 'Counterproductive'

LD1002131094 Lisbon Radio Renascenca in Portuguese to Europe 1130 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Russia is against the ultimatum given to the Bosnian Serbs, but what will it do if air strikes have to be carried out? Very little has been said publicly. [passage omitted] Aleksandr Petrovich, the Russian ambassador in Lisbon, told us that air strikes could endanger the population and further aggravate the conflict.

[Begin Petrovich recording] Air strikes in Bosnia against Serbian positions are not the best solution to the Bosnian problem because this would lead, it appears to me, to an escalation of military operations in Bosnia and would be counterproductive. [end recording]

Parties React to NATO Decision on Bosnia

Zhirinovskiy Warns Countries

LD0902182194 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, shocked the public again today by telling journalists at the State Duma that if any bombing raids are conducted against Bosnia his party and State Duma deputies would force the Russian Government to bomb and destroy the country that sent its aircraft.

Zhirinovskiy Warns of World War III

LD0902211794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1924 GMT 9 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow, 9 Feb—In his address in the State Duma today, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR], said that the possible bombing of Serbian positions in Bosnia would be the "beginning of World War III." Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's address was connected with his recent trip around former Yugoslavia. According to him, "millions of Serbs are appealing to Russia for protection."

After a brief excursus on the history of that country, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said the people living in Bosnia-Herzegovina are "a single Orthodox people, some of whom at some time were forcibly converted into Islam and Catholicism."

In the opinion of the LDPR leader, the only way to resolve the Yugoslav problem is to withdraw all foreign military contingents and afterward "the people who live there will decide for themselves what they should do next." The economic sanctions against Belgrade, he thinks, will also fail to achieve results. "Children are dying because of them," Vladimir Zhirinovskiy believes.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy called on the Duma to adopt a unanimous position on the matter. On behalf of "the party which won the elections on 12 December," he said, "the countries whose pilots will dare to bomb Serbian positions will be completely eliminated."

After this statement by the LDPR leader there were numerous requests from the audience to switch off Zhirinovskiy's microphone. Then he promised all parliamentarians unhappy with his address "a trip to the north in the very near future."

"Russia's Choice" deputy Viktor Davydkin, who spoke after Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, proposed to the chairman that the microphones of those people's elects who take liberties to speak "in the tone and style of the LDPR leader" should be switched off.

In addition, Yuliy Gusman, another "Russia's Choice" deputy, addressing Vladimir Zhirinovskiy as "one Orthodox Christian addressing another Orthodox Christian," demanded that the latter should stop provoking the people's elects and said that, apart from the LDPR leader, "there are a lot of loud-voiced and boorish deputies in the audience ready to give a proper rebuff to Vladimir Zhirinovskiy." Yuliy Gusman also promised Vladimir Zhirinovskiy that it would be him who would go to the north "in the very near future, together with his relatives."

PRES Against Air Strikes

LD0902232494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2246 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] The faction of the Party of Russian Unity and Concord (PRUC) [PRES] in the State Duma has stated that air strikes on the positions of any of the warring sides to the Bosnian conflict are unacceptable and extremely dangerous.

In its statement published today, PRUC pointed out that local conditions of Bosnia-Herzegovina allow to make air strikes neither limited, nor selective. "The tragedy on a market place in Sarajevo will be repeated over and over again as a result of the strikes," the statement stipulates.

A total of 68 people died as a result of the mortar attack on a market place in Sarajevo.

Moreover, NATO forces' direct involvement in the hostilities will lead to further escalation of violence and virtually the trigger "internationalization" of the armed conflict which is fraught with unpredictable consequences, the document points out.

The PRUC faction stated that if the UN Security Council approves air strikes on Sarajevo, the Russian representative must use his right to veto the decision.

PRUC also believes that the Russian president and government should take immediate measures to prevent the Bosnian crisis from turning into a larger war.

Yavlinskiy Bloc Against NATO Action

LD0902225294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2004 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] The decision on "the utilization of NATO military forces in Yugoslavia" will be invalid since it "cannot be supported by Russia as the permanent member of the UN Security Council." This was said in the statement by the Yavlinskiy-Boldyrev-Lukin faction (leader Yavlinskiy) in the State Duma published on Wednesday. The statement points out that "involvement of the NATO military-political bloc into an armed conflict beyond NATO's sphere may break the military-political balance in Europe and contradicts Russia's national interests."

According to the faction's deputies, the lifting of the embargo on military deliveries to Bosnia and Herzegovina would inevitably make non-European forces (Muslim states) get involved into the conflict. The statement underlined that such actions could cause a serious domestic problem within the Russian Federation - a split between Christian and Moslem peoples.

The faction's statement emphasized that it was "nonproductive" to continue implementation of the economic sanctions against the new Yugoslavia since Yugoslavian civilians and the economy of the neighboring states were the first victims of these sanctions. In connection with this, the Yavlinskiy-Boldyrev-Lukin faction insists on the lifting or "gradual softening" of the sanctions against Yugoslavia (which now consists of Serbia and Montenegro-IF note), which does not directly participate in the war.

Yabloko Group Against NATO Involvement

LD1002104594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0905 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow February 10 TASS—The Yabloko parliamentary group in the State Duma, which includes a number of influential politicians like, for example, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, Vladimir Lukin and Yevgeniy Ambartsumov, believes that the decision to use NATO troops in Yugoslavia is illegal, because it cannot be supported by Russia which is a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council.

The Yabloko group adopted a statement saying that "the drawing of the NATO military-political bloc into an armed conflict outside the NATO boundaries is fraught with the upsetting of a military-political balance in Europe." They stressed that such involvement in the Yugoslav crisis "runs counter to the national and state interests of Russia."

The Yabloko group is sure that the search for a peaceful way of settling the Yugoslav conflict should be supported and continued. The Yabloko group urged Russia to play a more active political role in that conflict and, at the same time, warned against being drawn into it. In the opinion of its members, "a gradual peaceful settlement may be reached by the tested methods, suggested by the London Conference."

Article Views Solutions to Bosnia Problem

PM0902124194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Feb 94 p 3

[Sergey Sidorov article: "There Will Be No Simple Solutions in Bosnia"]

[Text] The chain of bloody events in Sarajevo is egging on the world community to engage in more resolute intervention the aim and forms of which remain contradictory in appearance. To "punish" one of the warring sides in the tripartite civil war is odious. To attempt do this by air strikes, even "surgical" strikes, in a country seemingly created for carrying out guerrilla wars on the ground is worse than stupidity. So what can be done?

The photograph shows the spot in Sarajevo where six children died from a mine explosion at the end of January. The Muslim authorities accused the Serbs, while the Serbs accused Muslim fanatics who, according to them, are killing their own people in an attempt to get Serbian positions bombed. That very day Bosnian Government head Haris Silajdzic called for air strikes. In a letter to the UN and NATO secretaries general he asked: "What else has to happen before the UN resolutions (on the use of aircraft in Bosnia—S.S.) are finally carried out?"

The next bloody tragedy was not long in coming—68 people were killed and around 200 wounded in one of Sarajevo's crowded marketplaces. Some people are trying with brutal methodicalness to embroil the United Nations and NATO in the Bosnian chaos. They are bent not so much even on provoking air strikes "to get the siege of Sarajevo lifted" as on embroiling them precisely in the war. It is clear to anyone with the slightest knowledge of the real situation that if NATO aircraft start bombing Serbian positions around the city it will not be possible to avoid heavy civilian casualties. It will be extremely difficult to hold back well armed detachments of Serbs by discipline alone and under a single command. Groups of "avengers" will start "punishing" UN soldiers, who will overnight have been transformed from neutral forces into military adversaries...

Moreover, "lifing the siege of Sarajevo" is a purely superficial pretext. To achieve this you need sufficient goodwill on the part of the warring sides. The Serbs have already stated that they are ready to hand Sarajevo over to UN control, given security guarantees for the Serbian part of the the city. Paradoxical as it may seem at first sight, the Muslim leadership has a different perspective on the problem of lifting the siege. Not so long ago Rasim Delic, the commander of the Bosnian Muslim Army, let drop the following remark in conversation with local journalists: "It is of no advantage to us at all to break through the encirclement, for more than half the population of the city will then leave."

The Delic plan, which has been referred to many times in the press, is to increase the scale of the war, to carry it into the territory of Croatia and Serbia (Kosovo), to upgrade the 200,000-strong Muslim army's weapons by getting the arms embargo on Bosnia lifted, and to exact military revenge on the battlefield. The threat this poses to the Balkans is well known from history. Fortunately, NATO contains enough level-headed politicians who are conscious of the potential consequences of simple solutions in Bosnia such as bombing the Serbian guns around Sarajevo and who are ready patiently to seek ways that are actually capable of leading to a settlement of the very complex Bosnian problem.

On Wednesday the North Atlantic bloc have the opportunity to propose such a way. It will consider a French proposal which chimes with the recent Russian initiative and amounts to putting pressure on all three Bosnian sides rather than just the Serbian one. NATO members will probably agree to demand that both Serbian and Muslim heavy armaments be placed under UN control within one month. So we will very quickly be able to see for ourselves who seeks peace and who wants to prolong the war.

Commentary on NATO Warning to Serbs

LD1002132894 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Commentary by analyst Eduard Sorokin; from the "News & Views" program]

[Text] The NATO countries have warned that unless Bosnian Serbs move their hardware and tanks to at least 20 kms from Sarajevo, the allied aircraft will have to resort to air strikes on their positions. Our analyst Sorokin comments:

As for the world's reaction to the decision taken by the North Atlantic Alliance, some countries support it to a certain extent while others are against, for one Russia. Reports say that President Yeltsin has spoken on the phone with a number of Western politicians and told them that the planned measure was pointless. Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has sent a letter to the United Nations warning against serious consequences for NATO's direct meddling into Bosnia's conflict. There are several reasons for Russia's position, which may be grouped in a certain way.

The first range of issues refers to the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. There is no evidence so far that it is the Serbs who are responsible for the tragedy that took place in Sarajevo last Saturday. Military experts find it difficult to locate the place from which the fatal mortar blow was made killing 68 people. As for the Serbs, they deny their involvement in the crime and argue that the tragic outcome runs counter to their interests. Such events could only play into the hands of their rivals, the Bosnian Muslims. Therefore, Moscow believes it is necessary to look into what happened first. And the Russian leadership also believes the military operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina cannot be stopped by their escalation, that is by resorting to NATO's air strikes. Moreover, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic has warned any assault plane will be shot down and UN peacekeepers in former Yugoslavia are jeopardized, though NATO has said that in case they are attacked retaliatory strikes will follow immediately. But in this case Serbia may interfere and the scope of military operations will considerably expand.

On 28 June 1914, the heir to the Austrian throne Archduke Franz Ferdinand was killed in Sarajevo and that sparked off World War I. The tragedy in Sarajevo on 5 February 1994 could prompt a chain reaction, the tragic outcome of which is difficult to foresee.

Russia's negative attitude to the NATO ultimatum determines another set of questions which have a direct bearing on the internal situation in the country. One has to view the historic past in this particular case; as a rule it is closely linked with the present. With Russia it was a tradition to support the Serbs, the ethnic Slav people who are Orthodox Christians.

After they suffered a defeat at the battle of Kosovo in 1389, the Serbs came under the rule of the Ottoman empire but they would not accept such a destiny. The Serb uprisings at the beginning of the past century caused wide sympathy among the Russians toward their Slav brothers. There were Russian volunteers among these Serbian rebels. With Russia's active support, Serbia became an autonomous principality in the year 1833, attaining its full independence at the 1878 Berlin Congress. During the Balkan wars earlier this century, Russia took the Serbian side once again, and in World War II the Soviet Army liberated the Serbian territory from the German Fascists together with the Yugoslav People's Army.

It goes without saying that the Russian leadership takes into account all these historic facts and circumstances. It is also forced to account for the opinions of members of the State Duma, the lower house of the Russian Parliament, which is clearly dominated by the pro-Serbian majority. It is not Vladimir Zhirinovskiy alone who counts in this case. He is trying to stake on the Serbs in his own political interests. A political settlement that will fully meet the Serbs' interests is actively sought not only by Russia's political elite but wide sections of the Russian public as well.

Generally speaking, Moscow is no less than others interested in halting the Bosnian tragedy that has already lasted for two years. But to attain this goal one needs to resort to different policies which will break the deadlock of the problems that are at issue. This is the standpoint Moscow shares. A force policy by the NATO alliance can hardly help resolve this issue.

Secretary Perry Likely To Pursue 'Traditional' Policy

PM1002111394 Moscow TRUD in Russian 10 Feb 94 p 6

[Aleksey Burmistenko profile under "Who's Who" rubric: "William Perry, Scientist and Secretary"]

[Excerpts] A few days ago the U.S. Senate unanimously approved President Clinton's nomination of 66-year-old William Perry for the post of defense secretary. This unanimity can easily be explained because throughout his career Perry has been closely associated with the Pentagon and has been widely recognized as an effective leader of major corporations in the military industry, and he is an eminent mathematical scientist and arms control specialist. [passage omitted]

The new defense secretary believes that the department he heads "must play an important role in strengthening democracy," because the U.S. military complex "can help peoples to appreciate more fully the principles and advantages of civilian control over the military department" by means of direct programs of cooperation with various countries' defense ministries. As we know, such a program is now being implemented together with Russia.

In his recent speeches Perry has stressed that democracy "has bided its time and has proved stronger than the most powerful armies." The advantages of democracy "are appreciated by everyone who believes in peace and freedom," but at the same time it must be borne in mind that "the collapse of Soviet communism has by no means removed the sources of the threat to our security."

Judging from these statements the new secretary intends to stick to the traditional U.S. defense policy of "keeping its powder dry," even in a favorable international climate, by maintaining a level of combat capability ensuring its national security interests whatever turn events in the world may take.

This is evidenced by the Pentagon's draft budget for the next fiscal year, which Perry has just submitted to Congress, for $263.7 billion—this is $2.4 billion more than last year. This draft provides for the appropriation of large sums for the development and production of high-technology armaments, including a new aircraft carrier, the F-22 fighter, the V-22 combat helicopter, and a new generation of submarines.

West's Aid Policy Seen As 'Shortsighted'

PM1002090394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Feb 94 p 3

[Manki Ponomarev article under "Over to an Observer" rubric: "The West Pretends..."]

[Text] If we were to gather together all the Western statesmen's assurances of support for the reforms in Russia and of assistance in restructuring and stabilizing its economy, we would get maybe not just one but several fat volumes. Really. Here is U.S. President Bill Clinton saying in his keynote statement to Congress: "The best way to ensure lasting peace is to promote the development of democracy in the world. This is why we support the reforming democrats in Russia and other states of the former Soviet bloc." Here is Warren Christopher, leader of the U.S. foreign policy department, solemnly proclaiming: "We believe that the aid programs for Russia must continue to be implemented. We will urge international financial institutions to give it warranted and expedient support." Here is an official statement by Richard Dyuke [surname as transliterated], spokesman for the French Foreign Ministry: "Nobody in the West casts any doubt on the further granting of economic aid and the allocation of credits to Russia." Here is....

But it is obviously pointless to continue listing such statements. They are innumerable. Just as there are innumerable alluring promises of financial and other aid. According to the estimates of the authoritative OECD, Russia was promised $24 billion in 1992 and even $43 billion in 1993!

These promises were recorded in very serious documents—the decisions of the G-7 (the leaders of the world's seven most developed states), the IMF, the World Bank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and Russia's bilateral agreements with a number of states. In fact, however, most of these—let us be frank—highly impressive promises have remained just declarations not backed up by deeds. For example, of the aid package to the tune of $28 billion which the G-7 countries alone intended to give to Russia in 1993, in fact just...$4 billion was allocated. The IMF, whose share in the Western aid for Russia was to have amounted to $14 billion, in practice gave just $2.5 billion.

This policy made the well known U.S. commentator J. Hoagland resort to the following comparison in one of his articles. "Soviet workers," he wrote, "used to joke that the government pretends to pay them, while they pretend to work. Today the West pretends to give aid to Yeltsin in Russia, who in turn pretends to implement reforms."

Let us leave on Hoagland's conscience the claim that reforms are not being implemented in Russia. But it is true that the West is pretending more than helping. It is sufficient to recall that in 1992, for example, the volume of aid from the United States and Japan in respect of all the countries of the former Soviet bloc did not exceed one-hundredth of 1 percent of the U.S. and Japanese GNP. France and Britain also confined themselves to scraps. Germany alone stands out. It granted Russia $3.9 billion—over five times as much as the United States. These are data for 1992. The final results have not yet been summed up for 1993. But it is already known that there will be no fundamental differences compared with the preceding period.

It would not be out of place to take a look at what the funds which actually have been allocated give to Russia. Take the following fact. In 1993 the United States extended to our country credit of $700 million to buy grain over 15 years. But at the same time it stipulated that 75 percent of the shipments of this grain across the ocean had to be made on U.S. ships and, moreover, at highly inflated tariffs (whereas it costs $15,000-17,000 a day to charter a Liberian ship, a U.S. one costs $25,000-30,000). Thus, in fact almost all the $700 million goes to U.S. grain producers and shipowners. Russia gets the debt (and the interest on the debt).

It should also be emphasized that credit is frequently hedged about with all kinds of conditions which quite often go beyond the generally accepted framework of relations between equal partners. These conditions can be divided into several groups.

The first group is political. The lenders (for it is not usually a question of funds provided gratis but precisely of loans for a particular term and at a particular, sometimes very high, rate of interest) advance demands that Russia implement its reforms from a certain standpoint and at a certain pace, sometimes disregarding internal conditions and the country's national interests. Moreover, although people in the West like to say that aid is given in the hope of continuing the policy of democratic reforms and not with a view to individual personalities, in practice it is frequently possible to hear "recommendations" as to who must and who must not be a member of the government, for instance. The political conditions also include attempts to tell Russia how to deal with close neighbors and what it can and cannot reach agreement with them about.

The second group of conditions is exclusively economic. The IMF is particularly bad in this regard. The IMF makes the allocation of funds conditional on permissible—in its view—levels of inflation, pace of privatization, and other criteria which undoubtedly relate to the internal competence of sovereign states. Naturally, the IMF takes no responsibility for the consequences of fulfilling its conditions, which it prefers to call recommendations.

The third group of conditions relates to the desire to hinder Russia's access to world markets and to undermine the competitiveness of its exports. There are more than enough facts here. There is a mass of artificial obstacles to exports of Russian uranium, although you would think that all the agreements on this had been reached long ago. There is the demand to reduce Russian aluminum exports by half a million tonnes. There are the obstacles to Russia's involvement in commercial launches of spacecraft. And much, much more besides.

When speaking of all these conditions, finally I cannot fail to mention the direct blackmail to which Western countries sometimes resort. I have already spoken of the numerous assurances that Russia will be given very broad assistance and support. But I could also cite many statements threatening to end all assistance. "The United States could revise its policy of giving aid to Moscow if the Russian Government embarks on a path of slowing the process of economic reforms," the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR pointed out, citing officials in the Washington administration. The Japanese Foreign Ministry has disseminated a report that the G-7 countries might not agree to the proposal to include Russia among the full participants in their annual meetings, although only recently this idea was being discussed actively.

Such a policy toward present-day Russia can only be called shortsighted. What our country needs is not mythical "aid"—hedged about, moreover, with a mass of conditions—but equitable cooperation with Western states and broad access to world markets, where in an honest competitive struggle Russian producers would be able both to show and to see for themselves what they are worth. Precisely this idea was championed by Russia's representatives at the recent World Economic Forum in Davos.

With or without the support of Western countries Russia will, all the same, go its own way. But in the former case this path would be easier and less painful. And not only for us. For Western countries too. They would not need to fear unpredictable turns in Russian politics.

Instead of just pretending to help us, it is in the interests of the West itself to go over to full cooperation with Russia. It is in our interests to continue our reforms still more consistently, only far more sensibly than hitherto. Not rejecting assistance from elsewhere, but not putting too much trust in it either.

Delegation Head Positive About Ukraine Agreements

LD1002105694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0929 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Taranov]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Feb—"The Russian-Ukrainian talks took place in a constructive atmosphere. There was a creative and active examination of those issues that could open up the way to implementation of everything agreed by the presidents of the Russian Federation, Ukraine, and the United States at their tripartite meeting in January this year." Yuriy Dubinin, the head of the Russian Federation state delegation to the talks with Ukraine, said this in an exclusive interview with the ITAR-TASS correspondent.

"As a result of the talks a package of documents on this matter was agreed. The drafts of these documents are now being submitted to the presidents of Russia and Ukraine. We have an understanding with our Ukrainian colleagues that until the presidents consider and, we hope, endorse these documents, we will not reveal the details of these agreements." On the whole, however, Yuriy Dubinin stressed, "these agreements are highly positive and promising."

'Highly Productive' Talks on Skrunda Viewed

PM0902145594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Feb 94 p 3

[Sergey Knyazkov report under "Postscript: Events and Commentaries" rubric: "The Skrunda Radar Station Could Be Retained for Four More Years. A Qualitatively New Point Has Been Reached in the Russian-Latvian Talks"]

[Text] Sergey Zotov, head of the Russian delegation, told KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's correspondent that the 7 February meeting with Martins Virsis, his Latvian colleague, was highly productive. It makes it possible to say that we are approaching a qualitatively new point in the talks, since one of the most difficult problems—the period of operation of the radar station at Skrunda after the Russian troop withdrawal from Latvia—has been removed. An accord was reached at the level of the delegations that the radar station will be retained for four more years, with 18 months being allocated thereafter to dismantle it.

The delegation heads believe that all other questions could also be resolved in the very near future. Thus, Sergey Zotov stated, if in the very near future the Latvian Government approves the accord that has been reached on the radar station, then the way will be opened up to signing an entire package of treaties and agreements connected with the troop withdrawal.

As is known, Russia links the signing of the main treaty on the troop withdrawal with agreement on the radar station and on social protection for military pensioners. An accord has been reached on the Skrunda installation, and a second agreement is practically ready, although a number of recent statements by the Russian foreign minister on questions of relations with the Baltic countries have caused the Latvian Government to waver on certain points of the agreement, but in Sergey Zotov's opinion, this is still no reason to jeopardize the whole package of treaties and agreements that have been worked out. It will obviously become clear whether or not this is so as early as 14-17 February in Riga, where the next round of the Russian-Latvian talks will be held.

Talking with Sergey Zotov, I could not fail to touch on the fact of the reelection of Andrejs Rucs, who was to blame for the 10 January incident involving two Russian generals, to the post of chief of the council of Riga's Vidzeme suburb. "In this connection we expressed concern to the head of the Latvian state delegation," Sergey Zotov replied. "He informed us that the republic General Prosecutor's Office is submitting for the Saeima's consideration a corresponding proposal to create a legal basis for Rucs' removal from the post and the institution of criminal proceedings."

Chief Delegate on Talks

PM0902185394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Feb 94 First Edition p 2

[Gennadiy Charodeyev report: "Riga Has Allowed Moscow To Keep Its Radar Station at Skrunda"]

[Text] The latest round of talks which has ended between Russian and Latvian state delegations has resulted in a package of documents which has been prepared for signing, concerning the Russian troop withdrawal from Latvian territory.

Answering questions from IZVESTIYA's correspondent, Ambassador Sergey Zotov, leader of the Russian delegation, recalled that in 1993 we withdrew our troops from Lithuania without a corresponding treaty being drawn up. Our Latvian and Estonian partners in talks were tempted to follow that option. But they forget that at the time Vilnius farsightedly accepted Moscow's terms, which provided for guarantees for the rights of the Russian-speaking population to be observed.

For a long time the Russian diplomats' efforts consisted in convincing the Latvian side of the hopelessness of such an approach and making efforts to lead the talks out of the impasse in which they found themselves. Moscow and Riga wasted several months on this. According to Sergey Zotov, however, significant progress became apparent in the talks in January.

Today a start has been made on the legal-treaty formulation of not only the Russian troop withdrawal but also the agreements concerning social protection for servicemen and military pensioners in Latvia, the legal status of a Russian strategic installation—the radar station in the city of Skrunda—and the conditions of its operation.

With regard to the radar station's period of existence, the Russian diplomat pointed out that the Skrunda station will function for four more years. In addition, S. Zotov reported, an additional 18 months are allocated for dismantling it. Naturally, these periods have to be confirmed by the governments of Latvia and Russia, but Moscow considers this a reasonable compromise.

"Thus," the Russian ambassador concluded, "we will be left with small technical questions, and after resolving them in the very near future we plan to open up the way to completing all the work on a package of agreements, so as to submit it to the two countries' governments for signing."

Sergey Zotov expressed the assumption that the Russian Government will receive the agreements elaborated in the talks for approval by the end of February.

Army Calls For Peaceful Solution to Dniester Problem

LD0902161994 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] The Russian 14th Army's Military Council has called on Chisinau and Tiraspol to search for peaceful ways to solve the Dniester region problem. The military council's statement notes that an extraordinary situation has taken shape in the region, and tension is being whipped up again. In the military's view, a solution can be found by implementing the Moldovan-Russian agreement on settling the conflict, which was signed in Moscow.

Kozyrev Condemns Division of Union; Notes Baltic Claims

MK1002104094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 10 Feb 94 p 1

[Unattributed POSTFACTUM report: "Andrey Kozyrev Again Talks About a Party of War"]

[Text] Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has declared that Russia has no territorial claims on any state, at the same time admitting the presence of such claims to Russia on the part of the Baltics. "It is high time to stop dividing and tearing apart the once single space of the former USSR. The party of war, represented by the nationalist opposition, is using the slogan of vital interests as a pretext for provoking a war. The party of peace, to which I attribute myself, on the other hand, intends to build friendly relations with all states of the former Union," the minister said.

Kozyrev's Stand on Uzbek Russophones Criticized

MK1002103094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 10 Feb 94 p 1

[Ignat Lebedyakin report: "Andrey Kozyrev Has Decided Not To Make a Scandal. Uzbek TV Provoked It Later On"]

[Text] Yesterday morning the Ostankino TV channel twice went off the air on Uzbekistan territory. Subjected to censorship were news bulletins which contained, among other things, footage about Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Tashkent. This scandalous fact is most eloquent testimony to the results of the Russian-Uzbek talks, whose main agenda item was the situation of the republic's Russian-speaking population.

It will be recalled that a not very pleasant incident occurred in Tashkent last November with the participation of the same actors: Attempts were twice made to prove to Kozyrev that the line at the Russian Federation Embassy did not include Uzbekistan citizens. This time the minister, prior to the talks with his Uzbek counterpart, deemed it prudent to meet with representatives of the Russian community who had gathered near the embassy gate. According to INTERFAX, his fellow countrymen complained to the minister about the difficulties involved in leaving the country and the impossibility of selling their housing, also citing acts of discrimination.

The press statement that Kozyrev made at the end of the negotiations sounds extremely flaccid [vyalyy] and is hardly capable of instilling hope. "It seems that the element of mutual misunderstanding has lessened," the minister told journalists. "The problems are acute but we discuss them in a constructive key, without mutual hysteria." Kozyrev also added that he does not belong "among those statesmen who expect the discussion of the issue of Russian-speakers' rights to generate a scandal and who are themselves pouring fuel on the fire, trying to gain some additional points." This text markedly differs from the reciprocal eulogies that were heard two weeks ago in Bishkek. In fact this is the limit of diplomatic courteousness, which is usually followed by a protest note. Confidential sources in the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry say that the Central Asian leaders are exerting most heavy pressure on Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev, considering his position on the issue of dual nationality to be too soft. There is every reason to believe that Islam Karimov is among such leaders.

Kozyrev Details Russian Foreign Policy Agenda

PM0902193994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 9 Feb 94 p 3

[Article by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev: "The Guideline Is Russia's Interests. Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on the New Tasks of Russian Foreign Policy"]

[Text] Russian diplomacy has entered the new year, 1994, with a wide agenda for both the immediate and medium term.

The consistent orientation of our foreign policy toward the promotion of national interests through openness and cooperation with the outside world strengthens Russia's positions in the international arena and creates a favorable climate for internal development. At the same time the end of the Cold War certainly does not mean that international relations have become idyllic. The emerging multipolar world is in many ways more complex and unpredictable than the old bipolar world. Instead of two rival blocs there exist many "centers of influence" with different and sometimes competing interests. New threats to our interests are appearing, above all in connection with instability and armed conflict in the area of the former USSR.

In these conditions we are faced with the task of energetically—and where necessary, uncompromisingly—defending and promoting our interests, while, of course, remaining within the bounds of international law and the search for a rational balance of interests.

In order to carry out this policy we need a robust democratic state system. The new Russian Constitution creates the necessary prerequisites for this. Foreign policy remains in the president's hands, which rules out its invasion by manifestations of adventurism and self-interest.

In the practical sphere we shall operate in the following main areas.

In the past two years Russia has concluded dozens of bilateral treaties and agreements, joined the key international economic organizations, and acquired a whole series of partners in various regions of the world. Now these accords must be given substance. This is not a departmental, but a statewide task.

In the sphere of national security our priorities will be, as before, to eliminate hotbeds of armed conflict along Russia's borders, to reinforce the arrangements relating to the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the latest military technologies, and to increase the accountabilty and transparency of the international arms trade, while unconditionally safeguarding our commercial interests in this sphere.

The START II treaty and the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons need to be brought into force. The former Supreme Soviet ducked out of ratifying these important disarmament treaties. I hope that the Federal Assembly will approach this question with more responsibility and with less prejudice, especially as it is a question of an important phase of the implementation of Russia's new military doctrine. The agreement between the Russian Federation, the United States, and Ukraine on the total elimination of strategic nuclear weapons on Ukrainian territory signed in Moscow creates a favorable climate for the ratification of the START II treaty.

We will concentrate our efforts on the all-around development of the CIS and its speedy transformation into a full-fledged regional organization with an increasing level of economic integration and political cooperation. The opportunities presented by the Russian chairmanship of the Commonwealth in the first half of this year will be actively exploited to achieve this task.

The defense of the rights of the Russian-speaking population remains of paramount importance. In 1992-1993 the government was forced to spend 51.5 billion rubles on catering for refugees and persons forced to emigrate from regions of interethnic tension and conflict. Hence not only humanitarian principles, but also the country's pragmatic interests oblige us to ensure that UN and CSCE standards in the sphere of human and national minority rights are genuinely observed in the CIS and the Baltic region. It is important to speed up the "launch" of Commonwealth human rights protection mechanisms—first and foremost a CIS Commission for Human Rights.

Russia finds equally unacceptable both "neo-imperialist" and isolationist approaches to problems in the former USSR, where we find concentrated not only our vital interests but also the main sources of threats to these interests and, at the same time, great opportunities for cooperation. Russia objectively carries a special responsibility for maintaining peace and stability in this huge area. We will persistently seek to increase the CIS' peace-making potential and to further cooperation in strengthening its external borders. Special attention will be devoted to conflict regions and to Tajikistan, where dialogue between the government and the political opposition must finally get started.

In the European sphere our central task is to participate in building a peaceful, democratic, united Europe. The main instrument in the political sphere is to be the CSCE, and in the military sphere, the North Atlantic Cooperation Council [NACC], which could act as the coordinator of the work of the regional organizations of NATO, the Western European Union, and the CIS in the sphere of maintaining peace and strengthening stability in Europe, increasing the openness of military activity, and carrying out conversion of the military-industrial complex. An important stage in the creation of a security system in Europe will be the forthcoming regular CSCE summit in Budapest this year.

The "Partnership for Peace" concept adopted by NATO in Brussels was a major incentive to dialogue on these problems. Displaying a responsible approach, our partners did not succumb to the temptation of "quick-fix" solutions to security problems and did not opt for the extension of NATO membership to the East, which was fraught with the danger of provoking a new split in Europe. Instead of this, emphasis was placed on developing cooperation with all states on an equal basis. It is important now that we not only do not lag behind other countries, but move more quickly than they on the road of establishing genuine partnership, above all in the military area. Otherwise the isolation of Russia, which we managed to avoid on the political level, could occur on the practical level.

At the same time Russian diplomacy is not limited to just the partnership for peace option. We are promoting wider and more far reaching initiatives for the formation of the new Europe, including the extension of the NACC to include the neutral states of Europe, and also in the area of offering Central European countries interlocking security guarantees from Russia and several of our West European partners.

In the sphere of bilateral relations with the leading West European states we will continue top-level dialogue with the FRG, France, Britain, and Spain. We hope in the near future to complete talks with the European Union on an agreement on partnership and cooperation.

Russia will continue to develop relations with the countries of Central and East Europe on a new basis. We start from the premise that the common interests of our countries as regards democratic reforms, transition to effective market economies, and the preservation of traditional ties between our peoples significantly outweigh old grievances and suspicions. In recent years the treaty-legal basis of our relations with the majority of Central and East European countries has been radically renewed. We expect to complete this process by drafting political treaties with Romania and Albania. Russia will continue to participate actively in the search for a settlement to the crisis in the former Yugoslavia. To the extent that Federal Republic of Yugoslavia complies with UN demands, we will seek to have the sanctions against this country rescinded and to restore its status in the United Nations and other international organizations.

The visits to Moscow of U.S. President B. Clinton and Vice President A. Gore consolidated the aim of moving toward mature partnership in Russian-U.S. relations. Now the task is to exploit to the full the newly opened opportunities for cooperation in the political, economic, scientific and technical, and other spheres.

An important step toward lifting restrictions on our foreign economic relations will be the forthcoming abolition of COCOM [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls] in spring 1994. The creation of new international arrangements for monitoring trading in arms and "dual" technologies presupposes the participation of Russia—a major producer of arms and military "know-how."

New steps will be made to bring Russia closer to the G-7. Following the Tokyo meeting between B.N. Yeltsin and the G-7 leaders our dialogue with the G-7 has acquired a regular, working character. A G-7 mission in Moscow has been set up, and our diplomats and financiers participate in meetings with its experts. At the forthcoming G-7 summit in Naples Russia intends to propose beginning the practical transformation of this formation into a G-8, starting with the political sphere.

An important foreign policy task is the use in Russia's interests of its unique position as a Eurasian power. In recent years we have managed to a significant degree to pave the way to large-scale cooperation with leading Asian states— India, China, Japan—and also to begin developing relations with new partners (South Korea and the countries of ASEAN and the Persian Gulf). Now these new opportunites in the sphere of economic and scientific and technical cooperation must be exploited. The strategic guideline in the Asia-Pacific region is the effective incorporation of he regions of Siberia and the Far East in international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

The promotion of our interests in the southern direction is linked above all with ensuring stability there and removing hotbeds of tension. We will actively pursue the course of neutralizing threats to the security of Russia and the Commonwealth countries and opposing religious extremism and aggressive nationalism.

Russia is deeply committed to the settlement of the Near East problem. Our efforts will center on continuing, in close collaboration with the United States, Russia's role as a cosponsor of the peace process and on helping to promote the realization of the aspirations of the Palestinian people. We will seek to develop broad economic cooperation with countries of the Arab world with the aim of involving their financial resources in the economic modernization of Russia and consolidating its positions on world markets, including the arms market.

Our relations with the countries of Latin America, with many of whom we have interesting experience in the economic, technological, and other spheres, will be stepped up.

Continuing our course toward developing cooperation with the countries of Africa, Russia will maintain its active involvement in the settlement processes under UN auspices in Somalia, Angola, and Mozambique.

In the sphere of multilateral diplomacy we will energetically promote the strengthening of the United Nations. We will seek a model for reforming this organization—including its Security Council—which leads to the increase of the effectiveness of the United Nations as the leading institution of international cooperation. Our priorities are to involve the United Nations in actively supporting Russia's peace-making activity and protecting human and national minority rights, and also the rights of the victims of armed conflicts.

The "domestic" agenda of Russian diplomats' work also promises to be extensive. One important avenue of this work is to offer support to Russian regions entering into direct international relations. In recent times, with Russia's active cooperation, a whole series of cooperation structures have been set up in the region of the Baltic, the Black Sea, and the Barents Sea/Euroarctic region. Now the most difficult task remains—to ensure that the mechanisms of cooperation that have been set up genuinely start to work for the specific socioeconomic needs of wide areas of Russia. This has special significance for our Northwest region, which until recently was completely isolated from the outside world by a veil of secrecy. Now the state must repay its debt to the Russian North. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs intends to continue to actively help Murmansk and Arkhangelsk Oblasts and Karelia to establish direct links with business partners in Scandinavia and West Europe.

In implementing its foreign policy the Ministry of Foreign Affairs counts on constructive collaboration with the new Russian parliament. We expect the Federal Assembly to play an active part in the formation of a legislative basis for Russia's foreign policy activity.

Commentary Advocates Talks To Resolve DPRK Nuclear Issue

SK1002101594 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1000 GMT 8 Feb 94

[From the "Focus on Asia" program]

[Text] International sanctions can be taken against the DPRK. If Pyongyang does not accept the international inspection of its nuclear cites before 21 February, sanctions can follow, said ROK Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu. A Board of Governors meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] will be held on 21 February in Vienna. The meeting is expected to adopt a resolution on sanctions to be referred to the UN Security Council for deliberation. In this connection, station commentator Valeriy Surikov writes:

The situation on the Korean peninsula is deteriorating these days. The three parties, namely, Washington, Seoul, and Pyongyang, are responsible for it. For instance, the United States and the ROK are planning to resume the Team Spirit—the large-scale annual joint military exercise—this year. Pyongyang regards the Team Spirit ROK-U.S. joint military exercise as an exercise aimed at northward invasion. Furthermore, the Pentagon is attempting to deploy Patriot anti-missile missiles in the ROK and even to bring back tactical nuclear weapons there. This attempt will only adversely affect the situation on the Korean peninsula, giving rise to a very negative reaction from the Pyongyang side.

In the meantime, the measures taken by Pyongyang these days are not contributing to the alleviation of tension either. Pyongyang made a principled promise last December that it would permit international inspection of its nuclear sites. Nevertheless, the IAEA has not received a reply on materializing the nuclear inspection. Moreover, the DPRK stated that it could withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and give up negotiations with the IAEA by reason of the Team Spirit military exercise.

A spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry has recently issued a statement clarifying the Russian position. Moscow claims that since there is still an opportunity to resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula by diplomatic means, the problem should be solved through talks.

Not many days are left before 21 February. However, all the parties concerned have enough time to ponder about the right and wrong of the problem. There is still time and opportunity to find a reasonable solution. It is time they fully operated the institution of talks, rather than of pressure.

Commentary on Inter-Korean Dialogue

SK1002120994 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1200 GMT 9 Feb 94

[From the "Today's World" program]

[Text] The DPRK thinks that it cannot reach agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] at present. DPRK's senior representative at the IAEA made public a statement to this effect.

Although a statement of this nature is made adding to the skeptic atmosphere for the solution of the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula, there are also statements which add to an optimistic mood for it, says station commentator (Aleksey Kondrachev).

For instance, in his verbal message to U.S. President Bill Clinton, DPRK President Kim Il-song noted that the DPRK does not intend to develop nuclear weapons. However, the world community cannot dispel suspicion of Pyongyang's nuclear program. The suspicion of the nuclear program remains unresolved because the North does not permit international inspection of its nuclear sites.

Although the DPRK is holding talks with the IAEA, the talks are falling into a stalemate again. The talks are coming to a blind alley which could bring a disadvantageous result to Pyongyang, because in 12 days the IAEA is supposed to disclose a report on the result of its talks with the DPRK. If no progress is made in the talks, the United Nations could take sanctions on the DPRK.

The delegates of some countries, including Russia, think that the countries should not put enormous pressure on Pyongyang, thus driving it into a corner. The economic and political sanctions will not be able to change the Pyongyang position easily. If sanctions are taken, followed by such steps as (?economic embargo), it could further stiffen the DPRK stance on the nuclear issue.

Suggestion is, therefore, made that dialogue be carried on between the DPRK and the United States, between the DPRK and the IAEA, and between the North and the South. This is the best way, as noted by delegates from many countries. The ROK president also called for a peaceful settlement of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula. The issue of denuclearizing the Korean peninsula should, in the first place, be a task to be resolved by the people of the North and the South themselves. Hence, inter-Korean dialogue should be resumed as soon as possible.

Commentary on U.S. Ending Vietnam Embargo

PM0902140994 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Feb 94 p 7

[Viktor Pritula Commentary: "There Will Be No Change of Priorities"]

[Text] Hanoi—Thirty years after the beginning of the aggression in Vietnam, the U.S. Administration has announced the lifting of the economic embargo against Hanoi. This is unquestionably an historic event, as was shown by the unprecedented number of foreign journalists and diplomats who attended the press conference given by Le Mai, Vietnamese deputy foreign minister.

However, despite the significance of Clinton's decision, it aroused no undue euphoria in Vietnam. Deputy Minister Le Mai, who read out the Vietnamese Government statement, stressed that Vietnam welcomes this move, which it considers important and useful both for the peoples of the two countries and for the cause of peace in the region. Answering journalists' questions afterwards, the Vietnamese diplomat said that the lifting of the embargo will have no effect on the foreign policy doctrine of Vietnam, which advocates the development of relations with all countries in the interests of peace and cooperation. In other words, a cardinal shift of priorities is not on the cards.

But Vietnam does have its priorities. After the collapse of the socialist community and the disintegration of the Soviet Union Vietnam turned firmly toward the Asia and Pacific region. Last year there was a perceptible economic rapprochement with the West European countries, too. Thus Vietnam's integration into the system of world economic cooperation has begun without any participation by the superpowers, one of which meanwhile lost that status while the other continued to maintain its anti-Vietnam embargo.

When President Clinton asserts that the lifting of the embargo is dictated solely by a desire to speed up and complete the solution of the problem of Americans missing in action during the Indochina war, there is a definite element of craftiness in his words. The Vietnamese leadership has repeatedly stressed that the solution of this problem on Vietnam's part is purely humanitarian in character and has no political or economic motives. The search for the remains of the U.S. MIA's would have continued regardless of the lifting or extension of the embargo.

In the opinion of many analysts the lifting of the embargo was dictated more by the economic interests of U.S. business, for whom Vietnam is the key to Indochina. The dynamic development of the Vietnamese economy, which is far from overheating, the pragmatism of that country's leadership, its great natural and human resources, and, most important, absolute political stability make Vietnam one of the most attractive targets for foreign investors today.

Vietnam is available for cooperation with America. But it must be mutually beneficial cooperation, not one that is conditioned by any political requirements. I was told that by the leaders of Hanoi enterprises with whom I have talked in the past few days. They stressed that they are not expecting miracles from Washington. In the opinion of some Vietnamese directors it would be naive, not to say stupid, to change the economic priorities today. America is a superpower of course, my interlocutors said, but in the economic sphere there are other superpowers, such as Japan in Asia. There are also the new Asian "tigers," whose rapprochement with Vietnam is evident. In January the Japanese granted Vietnam a credit of 0.5 billion [currency not specified] on preferential terms and they are now first among its trading partners. Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore are top of the list of foreign investors.

The lifting of the U.S. embargo, in my view, demonstrates first and foremost the pragmatism of Washington politicians, who know how to listen to the opinions of their country's enterprises. U.S. business will now begin to try to secure a position in the promising Vietnamese market, even if it is somewhat late starting.

It will bring its capital and technologies here for reasons that are far from philanthropic. But it is more advantageous for it to come to a still poor and backward Vietnam than to the vast expanses of a former superpower where, in the words of its president, the "idol of communism" has already been destroyed. U.S. businessmen are afraid of wreckers and prefer creators even if the latter have retained a loyalty to communist ideology. This, too, is one reason for the lifting of the anti-Vietnam embargo.

Vietnam, Russia To Formalize Relations

PM1002094394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Feb 94 First Edition p 3

[Own Information report: "Moscow and Hanoi Decide To Formalize Their Relations"]

[Text] Russia and Vietnam will sign a new political document governing the fundamental principles of their relations to replace the 1978 treaty, many of whose provisions have become outdated.

Apart from one of the subjects of the treaty, namely the Soviet Union, disappearing, the actual basis of Russian-Vietnamese relations has also changed considerably. The new document will be signed during SRV Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's visit to Moscow. A separate article will determine the status of the Pacific Fleet Naval Base in Cam Ranh Bay.

Two Japanese Fishing Boats Caught Poaching

PM0902161594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Feb 94 p 1

[Anatoliy Prokofyev report under "News" rubric: "Russian Ship Threatens Japanese Fishermen"]

[Text] Russian Federation Border Troops—On 7 February in the southern Kurils sector a Border Troops patrol boat assisted by helicopters arrested two Japanese schooners in Russian territorial waters. When they were inspected, recently caught sea creatures and wet gear were discovered aboard.

The poacher ships' captains signed a document attesting to the violation of Russia's state border and illegal fishing. The offending schooners are currently at roadstead in Tyaginskaya Bay. Commenting on this incident, the Russian Federation Border Troops High Command noted that the situation in the central part of the Sea of Okhotsk is now under the strict control of Russian Border Troops naval forces and aviation.

Media Issues

Most State TV Programs To Be Blacked Out 10 Feb

PM0902170994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Feb 94 First Edition p 1

[Report by Rustam Arifdhzanov: "Threat to Black-Out Television on 10 February is Signal for Strikes Throughout Russia"]

[Text] The mass strikes that had been expected in March, with actions by workers employed in the oil and gas, coal, and part of the timber industry forming the traditional vanguard, could begin as early as 10 February.

But the communications workers are the first to go on the warpath against the reformed government. Feeling that in the absence of Gaydar and Fedorov you can get money out of the present government, at any rate having seen that the agrarian lobby, led by Aleksandr Zaveryukha is succeeding in doing so, the communications workers, who do not have such powerful support in high places, have decided on an unexpected, but pretty massive attack.

On 10 February we will not see any programs, aside from morning and evening news bulletins, on the "Ostankino" and Russian state television companies' channels.

The decision was made by the communications workers' trade union central committee. In all other respects the latest all-Russian strike is no different from previous strikes by workers in other sectors. They are putting forward economic demands, above all the payment of debts. The state television and radio companies, and, therefore, the state, owed the communications workers around 70 billion rubles [R] at the end of last year. Not that much compared with the debts to other sectors. At the end of last year the government directed the Finance Ministry to pay the debt. This was not done, so the debt continued to mount in January.

The doubling of electricity tariffs and the increase in other costs have already forced radio communications lines to shut down in a number of cities in the country. The strikers intend to continue the blackout until the debt is paid in full. Television, which was the pawn of the old system, whereby the viewer paid for its work by buying a television set, and then part of the money added to the value of the television set was redistributed at the top, now has to depend on government charity. A government that recently slashed the Russian radio and television company's budget by exactly 50 percent can hardly be described as particularly charitable. What is, in the circumstances, a reasonable decision to introduce television by subscription nonetheless could have serious social consequences.

The former leaders of the strike movement are hard on the heels of the striking communications workers. Although the strike by oilworkers at "Yuganskneftegaz," one of the country's biggest associations, planned for the same day, 10 February, has been postponed, the association's working people have not dropped their demands for the payment of debts. And we are talking here about R500 billion. They are demanding a revision of the system for the taxation of fuel and energy complex enterprises and are proposing that Viktor Chernomyrdin immediately hold an all-Russian conference of leaders of oil and gas enterprises, trade unions, and strike committees. At the same time, L. Mironov, chairman of the Russian oil and gas enterprise construction workers' trade union, appealed to the country's president. His open letter says that "the behind-the-scenes games of politicians in the government...are provoking mass actions by working people and the suspension of oil and gas production in the winter, which is bound to have the most disastrous consequences..."

Another trade union leader—V. Ochekurov, chairman of the timber industry workers' trade union central committee—appealed to the leaders of parliament. The timber workers warned that "there is a danger that timber processing enterprises will close down." The reasons are the same. No pay for five months.

Finally, we have the miners. The leaders of the Kuzbass workers' movement have just stated at a Moscow press conference that a major strike will begin on 1 March unless the government presents by then a program to resolve the economic crisis.

Blank television screens could certainly spark off new strikes this very winter.

40 Percent of Listeners Affected by Radio Strike

LD1002130694 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 10 Feb 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Russia's own television and radio journalists will, it seems, also have to unite, but for a different reason. They will have to join forces with their viewers in order to defend the broadcasting industry. We continue to receive reports from regions where programs from Moscow are no longer being received. ITAR-TASS has reported that 40 percent of listeners could no longer hear radio programs by noon.

Radio, TV Programs Blacked Out Nationwide

Krasnoyarsk

LD1002034994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0255 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Khots]

[Text] Krasnoyarsk, 10 February—Immediately after the end of the "Ostankino" TV company's program, "Utro," Krasnoyarsk communications workers switched off the transmitters. Neither are Russian TV programs going out today in the town on the Yenisey. Only the local independent TV company "Afontovo," with its own transmitter, continues transmitting to Krasnoyarsk.

"We are not satisfied at the government's decision on a stage-by-stage repayment of debts," the ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by Aleksandr Molchanov, the head of Krasnsoyarsk Radio and TV transmitting station. "We have heard more declaratory statements not backed up by any specific deadlines. The debts to our station alone in the last three months amount to 1 billion rubles, and it is not known when this money will arrive."

TV journalists reacted promptly to the communications workers' threat. Last night they put more than 10 million rubles in cash into the communications workers' coffers, and local programs will go on the air this evening.

Chita

LD1002094994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] TV and radio programs from Moscow and Chita TV and Radio company went off the air throughout the entire territory of Chita Oblast early this morning. Vyacheslav Shirokiy, our correspondent, reports:

[Shirokiy] Chita communications workers have finally carried out their threat. Having found themselves practically isolated today they decided to stand firm till the end. The point is that Viktor Malakiyev, head of the local territorial radio broadcasting center, received a telegram from the Communications Ministry to the effect that as a result of talks, an accord was reached with the government on a stage-by-stage repayment of all the existing debts.

However, the Transbaykal communications workers could not be satisfied with this kind of response—all too often in the recent past they received similar promises that usually remained nothing more than just so many hollow gestures.

Currently, and due to the fact that the TV and radio company has failed to pay its debts to the communications workers, they owe almost 1 billion rubles to the Transbaykal power engineering people alone and they, in turn, constantly threaten to pull the plugs at the main relay stations in Chita Oblast.

There have already been several instances of this kind, when the radio fell silent in the eastern Transbaykal area for more than 24 hours at a time. Today, too, almost 2 million Transbaykal people are left without up-to-date information about events taking place in the country.

In his short interview for Radio Rossii, Viktor Malakiyev, the head of the territorial Radio Broadcasting and Communications Center, noted that we all became hostages of the economic chaos caused by the government itself that prevaricated till the last moment with the financing for the country's TV and radio companies, and that never bothered to repay the existing debts in good time, end of quote.

Whatever the merits of this case are, people in Chita Oblast now understand that the present stoppage in TV and radio broadcasts being put out represents the first and a completely real step toward destroying the country's unified information space. One would like to believe that the government will, at long last, reach the same conclusion.

Sakhalin

LD1002093894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0727 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Belovitskiy]

[Text] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, 10 Feb—The residents of Sakhalin and the Kurils found themselves "switched off" from Russia's information space today. The local telecommunications workers who are owed 200 million rubles just for last year by the "Sakhalin" television and radio company have expressed complete solidarity with their colleagues on the mainland.

The specific nature of the remote island region is that central newspapers take at least a week to get here. The only way of receiving up-to-date news is on the television.

Omsk

LD1002112694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Summary] Omsk RV-49, one of the biggest radio stations beyond the Urals fell silent for the first time today.

Correspondent Mikhail Shakhnovich reports that the communication workers have one and the same reason—acute financial crisis. The country's television and radio companies owe Omsk over 600 million rubles and, as a result, there is no money to pay for electricity, and employees of relaying centers have not received their wages since November. But the switches have been turned off not just at RV-49. A VHF station and television transmitters have stopped working on the oblast's territory.

Communications workers intend to strike until all their demands are met. A government telegram that arrived in Omsk this morning unfortunately does not give answers to any of their questions, including the main one, namely when the debt will be settled. To all appearances, the switches on transmitters are not going to be turned on very soon, although local television and radio channels are continuing work, because the Omsk communication workers have no complaints against the Irtysh television and radio company. They are not taking part in in the information blockade. Radio relay and cable links are working. All the oblast's radio transmitters relay the Moscow channel.

Ivanovo

LD1002053094 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0500 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Immediately after the morning news bulletin, transmission of Russian Television ceased in Ivanovo. The transmission of Ostankino First Channel Television, St. Petersburg TV, and Mayak, Yunost, and Radio Odin radio stations were also stopped. On all three TV channels Ivanovo people will only be able to view evening news bulletins. Local TV programs will be transmitted without change since the Ivanovo TV and radio company has no debt to the communications workers, our correspondent in that town, Oleg Alalykin, reports.

Barnaul, Nizhniy Novgorad, Penza

LD1002071794 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Today, after the morning news from Moscow, transmission of Central TV programs stopped in Krasnoyarsk, Barnaul, Nizhniy Novgorod, and Penza. Communications workers of the regions are demanding payment of debts.

Tver, Kostroma, Belgorod

LD1002092194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0809 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow, 10 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Central Television broadcasts have been cut off in Tver, Kostroma, and Belgorod.

Sergey Lomako, chief of the Tver radio and television broadcasting center, told the ITAR-TASS correspondent: "Like our colleagues in other Russian towns, we have also gone off the air because we are not fully satisfied with the government decision regarding our demands. To date, the television companies owe us 310 million rubles. Primarily they are Ostankino and the Second Channel. We will be broadcasting Tver television programs because the local company settles payments with us properly. We await a clear decision from the government."

The communication workers of Kostroma warned of an imminent strike yesterday. Although the information on talks at the government brought some reassurance, broadcasts were cut. Communication workers refused to give any interviews, saying they were too busy.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the Belgorod radio and television broadcasting center that the relaying of television programs from Moscow had been halted because of arrears for the work of radio and television transmitters. The debt exceeds 200 million rubles.

Yaroslavl

LD1002124694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1038 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nelli Grigoryan]

[Text] Yaroslavl, 10 Feb—The radio and television broadcasting center in Yaroslavl has joined the "broadcasting warning" action.

The morning news bulletins were broadcast, and then all central channels went off the air. Until the issue is settled, the oblast's Yaroslavia company and City Television, which have no debts, will be the only companies to broadcast without restrictions.

"The central and the Petersburg companies owe us more than 200 million rubles, and this causes us problems in paying for electricity and spare parts". This is how Boris Belyayev, deputy head of the Yaroslavl Radio and Television Broadcasting Center commented on its participation in the action. He acknowledged that "this action is not the best measure to take, but it is a serious warning that attention must be paid to the critical situation in which communications workers are finding themselves."

Chernomyrdin Orders Ministry To Pay TV Debts

LD0902212694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2023 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has instructed the Finance Ministry to raise funds to help phase out the state TV companies' debt of 80 Bn rubles to the Communications Ministry. His decision came after an emergency meeting with Communications Minister Vladimir Bulgak and Chairman of the Ostankino TV Company Aleksandr Yakovlev on Wednesday.

The meeting follows a threat by the communications workers trade unions to cut down TV broadcasts to morning and evening newscasts beginning Thursday unless the TV companies service their debt.

The prime minister expressed concern over the TV companies' arrears over 1993 and this year, his press office told Interfax. He instructed the Finance Ministry to start covering the debt by paying out wages to the communications workers, now several months overdue.

Says Debts Being Paid

LD1002133994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1249 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow February 10 TASS—The Russian Government promised to pay debts to striking communication workers in the first quarter of 1994 and asked them to resume broadcasts of state-run TV companies which they cut off in various regions on Thursday demanding the 80-billion rouble debt back.

"Payment of debts to regional radio and TV centres for the fourth quarter of 1993 has begun today and will be carried out according to a schedule approved by the Finance Ministry", government spokesman Valentin Sergeyev said on Thursday quoting Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

He added that all the debts will be paid in the first three months of 1994.

According to the spokesman, the prime minister will meet the demand of leaders of the communication trade union who urged a meeting with him.

The prime minister "understands the complexity of the situation and requests the heads and work collectives of regional radio and TV relay centres to continue work", according to the spokesman.

On Wednesday the prime minister promised that the debt would be paid by stages, however, communication workers said they had heard enough of such declarations and urged a concrete decision on the matter.

In the meantime, communication workers in Azerbaijan decided to follow suit and threatened to cut off broadcasts from Russia if Moscow fails to its half a billion rouble debt for leasing TV relay stations in Azerbaijan.

Broadcasts Limited Until Debts Paid

LD1002160494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1431 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Limits on the amount of TV broadcasting imposed in over 30 areas of Russia on Thursday will be in force till the debts to communications facilities, which have reached about 80 Bn rubles, are paid up.

Interfax learned this on Thursday from Anatoliy Nazeikin, the chairman of the Communications Workers' Trade Union. Nazeikin qualified Prime Minister Chernomyrdin's resolution on "paying these debts gradually" as "vague and indefinite". He described Wednesday's conference, urgently held by the premier with the Communications Minister, Vladimir Bulgak, and with the leader of the state-sponsored Ostankino television company, Aleksandr Yakovlev, as "intergovernmental talks".

Limits on the volume of telecasts were imposed with a view to saving electricity, the leader of the Communications Workers' Union pointed out. According to Nazeikin, this action will be ceased only after negotiations between government officials, the coordinating council of communications facilities' staffs and the central committee of their union, to be held to fix concrete dates for paying the debts and the sums allocated for these needs.

Earlier the chief of the radio communications, broadcasting and television department of Russia's Communications Ministry, Stanislav Glubokov, told Interfax that at noon on Thursday over 30 cities in Russia reduced the amount of telecasts on the two state-sponsored channels to news programs alone. Cuts in the telecasts were imposed in St. Petersburg and its region, in Rostov, Volgograd, Krasnoyarsk.

In Moscow telecasts will continue as before, Glubokov noted.

Communications Workers Demand TV Air Time

LD1002132594 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] We have just received a letter from the central committee of the Communications Workers' Union, signed by Mr. Nazeykin. It says:

The mass media are distorting the facts regarding implementation of the demands by the work forces at communications enterprises serving in the Russian information sphere—namely, by saying that communication workers are demanding trillions of rubles and that the Union's central committee has allegedly agreed to the government's decision.

The central committee of the Communication Workers' Union has protested to [Oleg] Poptsov, chairman of the All-Russian Television and Radio Company, on this issue and has demanded live air time to explain the situation. Despite demands by work forces for talks with the government, the latter has not deemed it necessary to meet either the Union's central committee or the coordinating committee. Since they have no received no specific realistic decision from the government, the coordinating committee and the Union's central committee are insisting again on talks with the government.

Trade Unions Dissatisfied With Accord

LD1002110394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1008 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ivantsov]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Feb—The Coordinating Committee of the communications industry enterprises insists on meeting Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and on adopting a specific decision to eliminate the industry's indebtedness, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by Anatoliy Nazeykin, the chairman of the Russian Federation Communication Workers' Trade Union.

He said that "measures taken yesterday were insufficient, because the government issued more than 10 written instructions to resolve the issue last year. Yet another written instruction will not resolve the problems that have become extremely exacerbated," he said, and noted that the coordinating committee expected the government's official response. If no solution is found, the industry's workers will continue their Russia-wide protest action, emphasized Anatoliy Nazeykin.

Currently numerous regional communications systems in the Far East, Siberia, central non-black soil zone, and a number of other regions are taking part in the protest action. According to the Communications Ministry, approximately 40 percent of Russian radio communications facilities were taking part in the protest action as of midday 10 February.

At an emergency meeting on Wednesday with Russian Federation Communications Minister Vladimir Bulgak and Aleksandr Yakovlev, head of the national Ostankino Russian state TV and radio company, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin instructed the Finance Ministry "to find an opportunity of a stage-by-stage repayment of the 80 trillion rubles debt that the state TV and radio companies owe to the communications enterprises." This measure was taken in response to a threat from the Russian Federation Communications Workers Trade Union addressed to the government and the TV companies that from 10 February onward "only the news bulletins from Ostankino and the national state TV and radio company would be put out in the morning and evening" until the debts to the communications enterprises were settled in full.

'Vesti' Announcer Bemoans Transmitter Strike

LD1002122494 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 10 Feb 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer Tatyana Khudobina] Today, probably for the first time, we go on the air without knowing who is able to watch our program. Transmission of TV programs ceased in Krasnoyarsk, Barnaul, Khabarovsk, Krasnodar, Irkutsk, St. Petersburg, Nizhniy Novgorod, Penza, Tver, Kostroma, and Belgorod after the morning news from Moscow. Islanders on Sakhalin and the Kurils have also been cut off from Russia's information network. No doubt the list will have increased by the end of the day. Valeriy Belyayev, the managing director of the Sakhalin TV and Radio Company, says the artificial creation of an information vacuum could have serious political consequences, when viewed against the background of the oblast Duma election campaign underway on the islands.

The strike has gone ahead despite the urgent meeting held yesterday evening with Russian Federation Communications Minister Vladimir Bulgak and Aleksandr Yakovlev, the head of the VGTRK [All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company] and Ostankino, during which Viktor Chernomyrdin, the chairman of the Russian Government, instructed the Finance Ministry to find funds for stage-by-stage repayment of the 80-billion debts owed by the state TV and radio companies to transmission enterprises. In spite of this, the telecommunications workers have acted on their threats.

Can one really restore order in a country where the prime minister's word means nothing, and the roost is ruled by the person whose finger is closest to the off button? I feel that this subject will provide serious food for thought throughout the day. Meanwhile, we continue "Vesti" for those viewers who can still see and hear us.

Finance Ministry Blamed for Transmitter Strike

LD1002131894 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0400 GMT 10 Feb 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Oleg Poptsov, chairman of the All-Russian Television and Radio Company [VGTRK], informed us overnight by telephone that the meeting between the heads of VGTRK departments and First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets ended late yesterday evening. The meeting addressed, among other things, ways to combine commercial and state television services. No specific decisions have yet been made. At the same time, Poptsov told the meeting that Russia's Finance Ministry was demonstrating what he called "total hostility" toward state television. The VGTRK chairman said the Finance Ministry seemed to think that state television lives on a different planet, while the Ministry of Finance is the main planet—where policy is decided by Yuriy Dubinin.

At roughly the same time, it was learned that Viktor Chernomyrdin had instructed the Finance Ministry to draw up a range of measures to ensure that the state television companies' 80 billion [rubles] in debts to the Communications Ministry are paid off in stages. At 0600 Moscow time, however, we received an ITAR-TASS report that Krasnoyarsk telecommunications personnel had switched off the transmitters immediately after Ostankino's "Utro" program. Russian television programs are not being broadcast in Krasnoyarsk either.

TV Documentary Examines Financial Problems

LD0902234494

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1725 GMT on 9 February carries a documentary presented by Sergey Dorenko giving the background on the current dispute between the government and communications workers in Russia. Dorenko says that the communications sector does not get money directly from the government but from the television companies it services, but bills have not been paid since December 1992.

He says that Moscow is not suffering the consequences of the cash crisis in the communications sector as much as other regions of Russia. But as a result of satellites deteriorating from orbit, television broadcasts to the Far East are likely to stop this spring. Satellites servicing western Siberia and the Urals will go down a bit later, he says.

In addition, the state broadcasting sector is not getting the state funds it needs. "At the moment the government refuses to allow state channels to become share-holding companies, but it does not finance them itself," he says.

Dorenko then talks about corruption in the various editorial departments of state television when advertizing airtime is being sold. Many ad agencies resell air time bought cheaply at a profit, and the editorial departments compete with them.

There is no shortage of independent companies ready to help state broadcasting out of its cash crisis, Dorenko adds, using Ostankino's Channel 1 as an example, where this is already happening.

Next, Irena Lesnevskaya, president of REN TV [a private company that began broadcasting via Ostankino in 1992], is interviewed. She says: "Any talk about state television is mere bluff, because 78 percent of programs on Channel 1 are made by independent television companies, and each of Ostankino's state-funded studios has its own financial structure." She continues: "Today, they cannot make one program on state financing."

Telecommunications Situation Caused by 'Neglect'

LD0902154194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1138 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] "It looks as if the fate of the media does not interest anyone in Russia's leadership," Anatoliy Nazeykin, the chairman of the Communication Workers Union, declared in an exclusive interview with Interfax on Wednesday.

In his words, such an attitude is born out by the government's total neglect for the telecommunications industry. By the end of last year the state-run TV and radio companies owed 67.5 Bn rubles to the telecommunications staff, and since then the figure has risen to 80 Bn rubles. As a result of the chronic debts, as Nazeykin reported, more than 50,000 telecommunications workers have been underpaid for up to 4 months and are now working for free.

These facts and proposals on how to offset the debts make up the package of documents addressed to the government by participants in a conference of telecommunications workers on January 21. There has been no response to the package, nor has there been any reaction to the telecommunications staff's warning that programs from Ostankino and other TV centers will be significantly cut.

Media Chiefs Level Sharp Criticism at Government

LD1002142194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] [Announcer] Here are some reactions about the situation. Oleg Poptsov, the chairman of the All-Russian Television and Radio Company:

[Begin Poptsov recording] I believe that this action cannot be seen as antistate or without logic. It is an apolitical action. When [Finance Minister] Dubinin says that someone should take political action but that he has nothing to do with it, I have to say that such a strange stance by the Finance Ministry of a state called Russia begins to puzzle me somewhat. We have to insure one thing, namely that when those people sitting in high office give their word, they use their professionalism, their authority, and their responsibility to keep that word. If you cannot give the money, give the freedom instead, but once you have given the freedom do not complain and do not claim to be governing the state. In other words, having renounced your obligations to finance television and radio, you have to renounce your right to govern both of them. Then other forces will govern them—not the government and not the president. [end recording]

[Announcer] Igor Golembiovskiy, the editor in chief of the IZVESTIYA newspaper.

[Begin Golembiovskiy recording] The danger has arisen of a situation in which Russia television and radio could fall silent. In our paper we have called this situation a national disgrace. It is a simply ludicrous situation. Both the television and radio, at any rate those channels in question, are state ones. Thus the state bears full responsibility for their work. I do not think there is a country anywhere in the world that would deliberately take the path of severing all links with society, and this fact is evidence of the collapse of our government and the state. [end recording]

PRAVDA Editors Explain Conflict at Paper

MK1002125094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 10 Feb 94 p 14

[Nikolay Sergeyev report: "Situation in PRAVDA. Chief Editors Talk in Different Languages"]

[Text] Yesterday, representatives of some PRAVDA executives proposed to the State Duma that a draft law forbidding foreign control over the Russian mass media be introduced. It is to be recalled that on 4 February, members of the editorial office held a meeting of the work collective where Viktor Linnik was removed from the position of chief editor and Aleksandr Ilin appointed instead. Mr. Linnik and Mr. Ilin told your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent that the split in the collective had happened over the difference of opinion on whether to continue cooperation with the PRAVDA publisher—the Greek Stilayt Holdings Ltd [as transliterated]. As the former chief editor put it, a "Greek coup" had happened in the newspaper. Aleksandr Ilin for his part stated that "he and Mr. Linnik are like two heads talking in different languages."

Viktor Linnik told your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent that in April 1992, when the newspaper PRAVDA experienced serious financial difficulties, its chiefs started looking for sponsors. It was then that the Greek company Stilayt Holdings Ltd offered its services as the newspaper's publisher. As a result, a joint venture "PRAVDA International" was set up in which the controlling block of shares (55 percent) belonged to the

Greek side, and the rest belonged to PRAVDA work collective. Mr. Linnik points out that "It has already been 16 months since the joint venture was created but newspaper employees have not yet received their shares." According to Mr. Linnik, the newspaper kept appearing after the joint venture had been formed despite all the difficulties and small salaries (16,000 to 20,000 rubles). Relationships between PRAVDA chiefs and the Greek side were "tolerable" all that time. But only until the point where the Greek side demanded its inclusion among the publication's founders.

Viktor Linnik stated: "I was against letting the Greeks have the newspaper." In his opinion, the Greek partners want to own the newspaper in order to get a big credit against it. According to Mr. Linnik, the Greek side had provoked a meeting of the work collective on 4 February where a decision was made on dismissing the chief editor. Mr. Linnik described the voting and the meeting itself as illegal because only 90 out of the 216 employees on the payroll voted to dismiss him. According to Viktor Linnik, he has information attesting that taking part in the voting were mainly employees of the Greek firm (bar women, cleaning women, and other service personnel). Mr. Linnik added that in his view, the meeting was illegal. He also stated that if the PRAVDA work collective themselves fail to resolve the conflict, he would go to court to resolve the dispute. Mr. Linnik noted that taking part in putting out the newspaper now are the part of the collective who had supported the appointment of Mr. Ilin to the position of chief editor right from the start of the conflict. Interestingly, members of the current editorial board do not wish this announced in the newspaper.

Aleksandr Ilin, today's chief editor of PRAVDA, pointed out in an interview to your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent that the Greek company had been the only one that helped the newspaper in its hard times. In his view, now "it would be unethical to break off relations with the Greek friends." Mr. Ilin said that Viktor Linnik had long been looking for Russian partners but that not all his efforts had been crowned with success. He stressed that subscribers who had paid their money do not care about whom the publication cooperates with, and the collective has no right to deny them the newspaper over their own internal conflicts. To your KOMMERSANT- DAILY correspondent's question on whether the Greek partners were going to become founders of the newspaper, Mr. Ilin categorically declared that this "was not, is not, and will not be the point." He also pointed out that PRAVDA's former and current chiefs made a mistake by airing their internal problems publicly. The chief editor said that despite their personal ambitions, the colleagues who "split off" continue to help put out the newspaper.

Court Orders PRAVDA Property Sequestered

LD1002065294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0640 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow February 10 TASS—The ruling of the Frunzenskiy People's Court to sequestrate all property of the PRAVDA newspaper came as an absolute surprise for its staff members.

The argument over the property between the joint-stock company PRAVDA International Steelight Holdings Limited and the PRAVDA staff members looks like a detective story. On April 23, 1991, Gennadiy Seleznev, then PRAVDA editor-in-chief, signed an agreement with the Cyprus firm Steelight Holdings Limited, under which all rights to the publication of the newspaper were passed over to the joint-stock company, in which the Cyprus firm has the controlling block of stocks (55 per cent). According to PRAVDA workers, they learned about the terms of the deal some time later.

The board of the PRAVDA journalists' organisation regards the court ruling as illegal. PRAVDA staff members intend to defend their rights, using all legal means. Despite legal complications, they are going to continue the publication of the newspaper. Aside from it, they intend to bring a couter-charge, questioning the validity of the agreements signed by Seleznev and the Cyprus firm.

Poltoranin Asks Journalists for Support

MK0902150094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 9 Feb 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Hold the Front Page!" rubric: "Poltoranin Holds Consultations"]

[Text] MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has learned that the other day Mikhail Poltoranin had an unofficial meeting in a private club with chairmen of journalists unions of Moscow and Russia. They discussed today's problems of the press, and in particular, questions of the newspapers' economic situation. Poltoranin, who is now chairman of the Committee on Information Policy and Communications, asked the journalists to support the committee created within the Duma framework. According to information available to the editorial office, such meetings will be held continually.

Political Issues

Gaydar To Establish New Political Organization

LD0902153394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1138 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Multilateral consultations will begin in Moscow on Thursday, under the chairmanship of Russia's Choice leader Yegor Gaydar, on the establishment of a new political organization—"a union or party"—a competent source told Interfax. He said that consultations would begin at 10:00 at the Institute of Economic Problems of the Transitional Period (5 Ogaryova Street) and will be attended by leading politicians, public and cultural figures, and representatives of trade unions and associations of entrepreneurs.

"The talks will concentrate on the establishment of a new political association involving politicians close to Russia's Choice and representatives of a wide range of non-political organizations, said the source.

The same problem will be discussed during closed emergency consultations at one of Moscow's suburban recreational facilities over the weekend, involving deputies of the Russia's Choice parliamentary faction.

New Nationalist Party Denounces Zhirinovskiy

LD0902183394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1743 GMT 9 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—A new party has emerged lately in the Russian political firmament. The national patriotic organisation called the movement for Russia's National Revival was set by the nationalistic front Pamyat, the centrist bloc of political parties and movements and the Conservative Union.

The presentation of the new party was held in Moscow on Wednesday in one of the rooms of the Federation of Peace and Accord decorated with a huge portrait of Russia's last Czar Nicholas the Second and a table with an icon and traditional Russian bread and salt in the middle. The ceremony was attended by several dozen Pamyat members clad in black uniform and a large number of foreign journalists.

The party's concept is based on the "holy unity of god, the czar and the nation." The statement of its organising committee read out by Pamyat leader Dmitry Vasilyev was written in old Russian and contained many provisions eulogising autocracy, the Orthodox Church and its traditional virtues, and blasphemed bolsheviks and communists.

A large portion of the statement was devoted to the economic programme of the party. "Our course is towards reviving the strong peasantry on the basis of state, collective and individual forms of land ownership by freeing fledgling land users from taxes and establishing a system of deductions and a tax-free and balanced economy," the statement read.

Speaking at a news conference after the presentation, Vasilyev said that the movement will not "take part in all these elections" because there is something unpleasant "in the fight for power." On the other hand, he stressed that it "will not quit political life."

Vladimir Voronin, leader of the centrist bloc who failed to pass registration in the 1991 presidential elections, said that he "remains a candidate for presidency." Vasilyev refused to comment on the movement's tactics. He added that he would not name his supporters in the upper echelons of power, fearing they may "come under attack."

He denounced Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the ultra nationalist Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, saying his emergence "is not incidental." It was carefully prepared by someone standing behind him. He described Zhirinovskiy's statements as a "dangerous political provocation," adding that he (Zhirinovskiy) "provokes revenge-seeking sentiments and discredits the idea of the Russian issue."

Vasilyev also spoke extremely critically about Aleksandr Sterligov, leader of the Russian national assembly. Vasilyev distanced himself from some of Sterligov's former associates, including Nazi Aleksey Barkashov and Communist Nikolay Lysenko.

Asked about the movement's place in Russia's political spectrum, Vasilyev replied that "there is no place for us there. I do not see there any people with whom I could stand together."

Chernomyrdin Attends MVD Conference

PM0902160994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Feb 94 p 1

[Sergey Prokopenko report: "MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] Sums Up"]

[Text] The results of the operational activities and official duties of internal affairs organs and Internal Troops during 1993 are being considered at a three-day conference-seminar which opened in Moscow 8 February. Command personnel of republic, kray, and oblast internal affairs organs and commanders of Internal Troops districts are taking part in it.

The conference was opened by a report from Army General Viktor Yerin, Russian Federation minister of internal affairs, on the results of internal affairs organs' operational activities and official duties, on measures to protect citizens' constitutional rights, and on further strengthening law and order and intensifying the fight against crime.

Russian Government Chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin spoke at the conference.

Military & Nuclear Issues

Border Trespassing Occurrences Updated

LD0902153894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1138 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Since the beginning of the year, Russian border guards have detained about 300 trespassers.

Colonel Aleksandr Manilov, the head of the information and analytical department of the Russian border troops' General Staff, announced that jointly with customs personnel Russian border guards had also detained about 80 units of firearms and 400 kilograms of drugs.

The situation on the Tajik-Afghan borders is the most serious. Since the beginning of the year, more than 20 attempts have been made to cross this border. On 14 occasions border guards had clashes with bandit units during which 18 trespassers were killed. The border posts have been attacked 47 times, including 14 times from Afghan territory. The Russian border guards have not sustained any losses.

Manilov believes that armed provocations and attempts to cross the border will continue, most of all in the section controlled by the Pyanj detachment.

Speaking about the Japanese vessels' illegal fishing in the Russian territorial waters near the Kuril islands, Manilov said that border troops fully controlled the situation and would curb any violations according to the law on state borders.

Border Guards Paper Begins Publication

LD1002101094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0919 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow February 10 TASS—Thirty five million people crossed Russia's border last year, and 3,500 trespassers were arrested by frontier guards. The troops were engaged in fighting with armed gangs some 400 times on the Tajik-Afghan border and killed 700 of them. On that border section alone they confiscated five tonnes of narcotics, as well as other contraband to the sum of four billion roubles. Those figures were cited by Colonel General Andrey Nikolayev, commander-in-chief of the Russian frontier guard troops, published today in the new weekly GRANITSA ROSSII (Russia's Border). Its first issue was brought out today.

The issue opens with an appeal by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who believes the newspaper should become an effective instrument of the implementation of Russia's border policy, of the military-patriotic education of frontier guard troops and the population in the interests of ensuring reliable protection of Russia's borders and its territorial integrity.

The weekly gives wide coverage to the Army service of Russian frontier guard troops at the borders of Russia and the new commonwealth and carries reports from the Pacific coast, the south Kurile islands and other regions, as well as from the Tajik-Afghan border where the situation has not changed much of late. The troops are continuing their routine studies and training sessions.

Designer Argues For Nuclear Weapon Testing

PM0902123194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Feb 94 First Edition p 7

[Interview with S.N. Voronin, chief designer of nuclear charges and munitions of the Russian Federal Nuclear Center, by Aleksandr Nezhnyy, place and date not given: "The Bomb"]

[Text] In 1927 Soviet power sealed the Sarov monastery, renowned for the spiritual deeds of the venerable Serafim, once and for all. One year later an NKVD child labor colony was housed in the monastery buildings. In 1933 the colony was replaced by a camp where not only criminals but also Article 58 victims served their time. In 1938 a small plant was built there which produced iron bedsteads, kitchen utensils, and skates, and it was from this latter product that the plant derived its nickname. During the war the "skate" plant manufactured howitzer shells and later produced Katyusha rockets. On 8 April 1946 a three-man commission arrived at Sarov: One member of that commission was Yu.B. Khariton, now a successful academician and three times a Hero. Within a year a special secrecy regime was introduced here and the city disappeared from the maps.

In present-day Arzamas-16 little remains of the Sarov Monastery. Only the bell tower and the guest buildings escaped destruction.... In addition to the municipal museum and the "Sarov Monastery" museum, founded by local history enthusiasts, the city also has a most unique museum of nuclear weapons. Here you can touch the first Soviet atomic bomb with your own hands, reel in horror at the appalling dimensions of the thermonuclear bomb, see fragments of once top-secret films on atomic and hydrogen bomb tests, and hear the stern but, at the same time, exultant voice of the announcer saying: "A blinding flash! The raging elements destroy all the test installations within a radius of 4 km." When describing the super-bomb tests a kindly woman says, not without a note of pride, that the explosion produced a shock wave of such force that it would have gone round the globe three times. There used to be a monastery here—it became a vast workshop producing weapons of awesome force. That is one image of the 20th century.

[Nezhnyy] Stanislav Nikolayevich, a man in your post is something of an unknown quantity in a society like ours. So would you be so kind as to tell us a little about yourself.

[Voronin] With pleasure. I am 63 years old. I was born in Yaroslavl, and in 1942 my brother and I were left without a father, our mother without a husband. It was wartime. After secondary school in Yaroslavl I studied at the weapons department of the Leningrad shipbuilding institute, where I received my diploma in 1954, specializing in torpedoes. I came to Arzamas-16 right away in order to make the bomb. As you can see, I am still here. I got married here and our children were born here... I have met and worked with some very interesting people here and learned a lot from them. Let me mention two names: Igor Vasilyevich Kurchatov and Yuliy Borisovich Khariton. Yuliy Borisovich is 90 years old but he is still working hard; you can find him at the institute on weekends and late in the evening.

[Nezhnyy] What does it mean to create a nuclear weapon?

[Voronin] First of all it is a very complex process. We are dealing with the very small segments of time in which the high precision mechanism of the charge and the munition operates, very high temperatures and very high pressures, which do not exist in practice in laboratory conditions. That is why experiments are very important for us....

[Nezhnyy] Nuclear tests?

[Voronin] Yes. The magnitudes which we work in can only be calibrated by experiment.

[Nezhnyy] Otherwise, the result is failure?

[Voronin] We may not achieve the expected result. There were quite a few instances of that kind, and this makes us come back to the question of nuclear tests. Without them we cannot improve our weaponry. We can make minor improvements but there will be no major progress.

[Nezhnyy] You say that tests are necessary, but the overwhelming majority of the inhabitants of our planet would say if asked: To hell with you and all your explosions! Isn't that so?

[Voronin] Do not portray us as some kind of monsters burning with a desire to carry out one test after another, ad infintum. No! Nevertheless, since life has forced the country to equip itself with its own nuclear weapons and since we have had to constantly improve them, they must be under reliable control. Control is all the more necessary in the conditions of our industry today, with its severed production ties and changes of suppliers and materials. After all, the replacement of materials could influence the characteristics of our product. Meanwhile we give a guarantee for the whole sequence of operations, as it were. That is why we simply have to check the condition that the products are in, whether they are still in a high state of readiness and reliability, and so forth. Otherwise they could become a threat to their owners. It is not only our specialists who adhere to that view but the Americans, too. We believe that as long as nuclear weapons exist they must be tested. In limited quantities and with very rigorous conditions regarding ecological cleanliness and safety—but they must be tested. There is no other way.

[Nezhnyy] So the aim is, on the one hand, to guarantee the reliability of the existing nuclear weapons arsenals and, on the other, to make progress in improving them. Is that why tests are necessary?

[Voronin] Yes.

[Nezhnyy] You have undoubtedly been present at nuclear tests?

[Voronin] I went to Novaya Zemlya virtually every year from 1969 through 1989. Since 1963, as you know, testing has taken place exclusively underground. This costs more than testing in the atmosphere, of course, but it is ecologically cleaner and safer. They drill a well or, in mountainous locations, they cut a gallery, lower the charge into it...

[Nezhnyy] Deep down?

[Voronin] That depends on the yield. But as a rule it is usually deeper than 500 meters—to prevent any discharges.

[Nezhnyy] How do you feel during all this?

[Voronin] Please do not think that I am saying this for effect, but you await an explosion with a tension which is really hard to describe. And then.... Then the ground begins to move under your feet—and we are 10 km from the site of the explosion, sometimes closer. A roar begins. It is probably somewhat like an earthquake.

[Nezhnyy] Does your institute conduct tests here around Arzamas-16?

[Voronin] Yes. At sites a long way from the city. This is essential. Then you need a conventional explosive. We do not work with fissile materials here.

[Nezhnyy] So the talk that everything here in this district is contaminated with radiation is....

[Voronin] Nonsense. We have a special service which monitors the air and the water. They are cleaner here than in Moscow.

[Nezhnyy] That is fine. But then what you call a new product is created here. How long does that take?

[Voronin] From conception to the completion of research work—5-8 years. The product contains the achievements of virtually all sectors of science and technology. Our institute is a multidisciplinary scientific center where all the spheres of physics, mechanics, mathematics, physical metallurgy, chemistry, and electronics are represented... It has one of the most powerful computer centers in the country.

[Nezhnyy] Is the quantity determined by the state order?

[Voronin] We have nothing to do with that. The client orders as much as he needs. For our part we monitor every product from beginning to end: manufacture, operation, dismantling, and recycling.

[Nezhnyy] What is the perfection that you are striving to achieve? Does it consist in increasing the destructive force of a nuclear weapon? Or is it something else?

[Voronin] We resolved different tasks at different periods. The main thing now is safety. The world has changed. Whereas previously we aimed for order and the strict observance of technological discipline, now, in my opinion, top priority has been given to freedom as it is commonly understood. Freedom as meaning total license. For example, how many people are there with weapons nowadays?! And if a bullet were by chance or design to hit our product—what would be the consequences then?! Previously we did not give much thought to that, but now we take it seriously. But once again, security measures envisage fairly major changes to the design itself. And it must be tested.

[Nezhnyy] How do Russia's present nuclear weapons compare with those that the United States has?

[Voronin] I would answer that question this way: Until the early eighties our products were no worse and, in some respects, even better than theirs. But since then there has effectively been a moratorium every year. Just isolated explosions—the last almost 5 years ago. However, the Americans paid no attention to our moratorium until recently, they carried out six to eight blasts a year and of course they got ahead of us. Specifically as regards safety.

[Nezhnyy] But as regards weapon effectiveness?

[Voronin] As regards effectiveness—no. In that sense we are still as good as they are. But, as you know, we do not have the same work opportunities as they have. Unfortunately...the financing conditions are now such that it is very difficult to organize normal work. Understand me: It is the state alone which needs us. So it all comes down to the budget, without which we cannot survive.

[Nezhnyy] Pardon me for interrupting you, Stanislav Nikolayevich, but what about conversion? Can the nuclear center not use conversion to earn its own living and pay for science and production?

[Voronin] We are already carrying out research work in the interests of the national economy. Our technologies can be used successfully in the nuclear power industry, in medicine, particularly in eye surgery, and in the oil and gas extraction industry, where explosive devices produce a considerable increase in the yield of wells, for example. But, no matter what revenue the federal nuclear center earns from conversion projects, we will never earn enough that way to finance our main area of work. I repeat that without the budget we cannot survive. But the budget has been playing some fairly nasty tricks on us—until recently at any rate. It is in the order of things to keep the nuclear center waiting two months for its pay. The average wage here is 80,000 rubles [R]. True, they are promising to raise it to R140,000 in the near future and to R160,000 for the average on the designer's pay scale.

[Nezhnyy] I am not even going to ask precisely how much a bomb designer and builder earns in the United States... Incidentally, have you ever been over there?

[Voronin] I recently visited their nuclear centers at Albuquerque and Los Alamos for the first time. The Americans had organized a symposium on safety questions. This includes the problems of waste products, the risk involved in shipment by different means of transport, and the means of testing storage containers for fissile materials and munitions.

[Nezhnyy] Stanislav Nikolayevich, you acquainted me with an "Appeal" signed by a group of scientists and specialists from the federal nuclear center and addressed to the citizens and governments of Ukraine, Russia, and other countries of the world in connection with the intolerable situation with nuclear weapons in Ukraine. (Our conversation with S.N. Voronin took place before the signing of the agreement between Russia, Ukraine, and the United States. Unfortunately recent reports from Kiev inspire alarm rather than confidence that the accords which have been reached will be fulfilled unconditionally—A.N. note) How do you explain Ukraine's stance?

[Voronin] What we have here, in my opinion, are political aims, a desire to get something from the United States, and the fear that if Ukraine becomes a nonnuclear state it will lose its international prestige. It is hard for me to discuss all this because I am not a politician. But one thing is beyond doubt for me—nationalistic feelings are clearly being inflamed. I went to Ukraine, to the missile division base at Pervomaysk, and there I read Ukrainian Army journals and books and, you know, I was simply appalled at the distorted way in which they portray Russia. The number one enemy—nothing more or less than that! Everything is presented in such a way as to make it seem that Ukrainians fought Russians even before the christianization of Rus, that they have been fighting ever since, and that they will go on fighting in the future.

[Nezhnyy] The combination of an ideology like that with nuclear weapons is dangerous, is it not?

[Voronin] It is more loathsome than dangerous. After all, they cannot use their weapons. The danger—and this is the reason for our "Appeal"—is that they treat them in a barbaric way. It could end badly. What is more, they are making life difficult for us at the nuclear center. Because of the incorrect treatment of the weapons, processes are taking place in them which increase the level of danger when it comes to dismantling them. And we are the ones who have to dismantle them. The later these products reach us, the greater the number of problems that we encounter. That is the trouble. True, some people on the Ukrainian side do say: We will dismantle them ourselves. But they will not. They will cause trouble—and that is all.

[Nezhnyy] What could happen in an extreme case, for example?

[Voronin] There could be an explosion.

[Nezhnyy] A nuclear explosion?

[Voronin] No, it would not be a nuclear explosion. It would be a conventional explosion, but the plutonium contained in the warhead would spread over a fairly large area. Furthermore, if all this happened at an arms dump the consequences would be a second Chernobyl. One explosion is enough to render a city like ours uninhabitable...

[Nezhnyy] Stanislav Nikolayevich, you are one of the creators of the weapon which, if used, and God forbid that, would take so many lives that it is horrible to even contemplate...

[Voronin] You want to ask me what my feelings are?

[Nezhnyy] Yes.

[Voronin] I always tell my colleagues: We make our weapons so as not to go to war with them. I do not think that intelligent people can ever use them. My whole life I have worked to ensure that this weapon makes it impossible even to contemplate the idea of beginning a war! In 1945 the Americans were able to drop "Little Boy" and "Fat Boy," but very soon even they had to think about the possibility of a retaliatory strike. Since then the task has been to preserve a balance of forces which makes it impossible to use nuclear weapons under any conditions. In this regard, admittedly, we and the United States overdid it and stockpiled vast nuclear arsenals. Now it is time to sort things out. Living alongside yields of this magnitude is inconceivable! Reduction is a noble cause. Nevertheless I do not think that the 20th century will see a final end to these weapons. Our children will still have to rack their brains to decide how to get rid of these weapons once and for all.

[Nezhnyy] Stanislav Nikolayevich, what is the average age of staff at the All-Russia Experimental Physics Scientific Research Institute?

[Voronin] Forty-two.

[Nezhnyy] Is that high?

[Voronin] Yes. But the average age of workers in science is 46. That is really high. The problem is that now we have virtually no young specialists coming through to replace them. In the past our work had prestige, and here at Arzamas-16 the young specialist could enjoy a series of social benefits that were difficult to obtain back in European Russia, such as apartments, good medical services, recreation—but now things are not only no better here than elsewhere, they are even worse. So no one comes out here to join us.

[Nezhnyy] Yet the Federal Nuclear Center is Russia's national asset. Does the government really not understand that, does the president not realize it?

[Voronin] Destroying a center is easy, creating one is incredibly difficult and nowadays I think that it is simply impossible. Just recently, it is true, things do seem to have happened. I told you that it takes us eight years to create a new product. That means that it needs a program. We proposed such programs long ago but they were ignored. Now interest has been shown in them, the government is creating the corresponding structures, and I am confident that in the end everything will work out right, these political games will end, and people will get down to work.

[Nezhnyy] Does the brain drain not worry you any more?

[Voronin] There are people who worked with us and who left for other republics of the CIS. They number just a few. No one, as far as I am aware, has yet gone further afield than that. In the main this brain drain is toward commercial structures, and these are good people who are leaving. Generally speaking if the economic situation gets worse the danger of the proliferation of nuclear technologies will increase. The state's duty and paramount obligation is to do everything it can to prevent this.

Economic Issues

Government Economic Options for 1994 Analyzed

MK1002114094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 10 Feb 94 p 3

[Nikolay Podlipskiy report: "The Economy Ministry Has Found Points of Convergence With Academicians"]

[Text] Judging by the results of yesterday's session of the Economy Ministry Collegium, the scholars who have been actively developing alternative economic programs lately should not expect the government publicly to admit the erroneousness of the present economic policy. Rather, the scenario for the further course of events will essentially repeat the patterns of the cabinet's collaboration with "non-nomenklatura" economists: Some of their proposals will be incorporated into the government action plan while the alternative programs themselves are in for protracted discussions in parliamentary committees and at party caucuses, to be subsequently buried in oblivion.

This is a win-win scenario for the government. On one hand, the leading members of the cabinet stress that the reform program in effect since last August will not be canceled under any circumstances. On the other, it is admitted that to overcome the economic crisis it is necessary to go outside the framework of purely monetary methods of economic regulation. It is expected that the main directions in economic policy adjustments will be promulgated at an expanded government session on 17 February (the president's speech to the Federation Council scheduled for 18 February, however, can shift the date of this event somewhat). In this case the incorporation of some provisions from the alternative programs (at present there are three: a memorandum by a group of academicians led by Stanislav Shatalin; a program by Sergey Glazyev and Dmitriy Lvov; and the "heterodox" plan by Yevgeniy Saburov) will allow the government to avert possible accusations from its opponents of monopolist practices in working out an economic course. As for the fate of the "academic" reforms as a whole, speaking at yesterday's press conference, Economy Minister Aleksandr Shokhin stated that all of them will be considered at a State Duma session today, together with the forecast for Russia's sociopolitical development in 1994 prepared by his ministry and a report by the State Statistics Committee—which could well become the beginning of a lengthy process of coordinating these programs, which differ substantially. Usually the search for such compromise formulas ends inconclusively.

Even so, as an Economy Ministry official said after the collegium session, any programs drawn up now have very little chance of being implemented—regardless of their quality. This is primarily due to the fact that in today's Russia any prediction of socioeconomic development becomes outdated and unrealistic very soon. Furthermore, the experience of implementing such plans shows that they—even judging by the number of corresponding government documents adopted—are implemented by less than half. Thus, for instance, the August plan of government actions in the sphere of financial policy was fulfilled by 20 percent (out of the required 15 documents a mere three were adopted); in the sphere of institutional changes, out of 19 resolutions, five were approved; in structural policy, only one-third of the documents planned were signed. In addition to these, the ministry official singled out yet another fact: In spite of the reorganization of the government structure, it has proved impossible to overcome the "redundancy of decisionmaking channels"—the majority of government members are busy "putting out fires" involved in the operation of particular branches and enterprises, which does not allow the government to attend to strategic planning.

Main directions of action by the Russian Federation Government in 1994

creation of a commission on economic reform under the government chairman;

rigid state regulation of monopoly activity, including control of prices for their output;

enhancing financial settlement discipline: all enterprises must submit information about all of their bank accounts;

elaboration of several models of government actions contingent on the actual situation;

elaboration of a system of limit indicators in the social sphere which must be exceeded;

implementation of institutional transformations aimed at promoting competition on the domestic market;

lifting export quotas on a number of goods beginning in the second half of the year.

Finance Ministry, IMF To Coordinate Budget

MK0902132094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Feb 94 p 1

[Unattributed report in the "In Brief" column: "The Issue of Credit Will Be Decided"]

[Text] A mission by IMF experts and the Russian Federation Finance Ministry are close to starting a negotiating process to coordinate Russia's state budget for 1994. This was announced by a high-ranking source at the Finance Ministry. He noted that a list of members at the Russian delegation to talks with IMF experts has been prepared and will apparently be approved in the near future. It includes representatives of the Finance Ministry, the Economy Ministry, the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry, and the Russian Federation Central Bank. The IMF mission will report the results of the meetings and talks to the IMF administrative council, which is expected to decide on the second tranche of the $1.5 billion credit to Russia.

Gerashchenko Admits Mistakes in Agro-Industry

LD1002111294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0918 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksandr Dzyublo and Aleksey Filatov]

[Text] Moscow February 10 TASS—"I support a multistructure economy and claim that our country should have both large agricultural enterprises and small farms," Russian Central Bank Governor Viktor Gerashchenko said here on Thursday, addressing the Fifth Congress of Russian Farmers.

Speaking of banking activities last year, the governor admitted that the bank made substantial mistakes which aggravated the economic situation of both farmers and the agro-industrial complex as a whole.

"This year," he said, "a decision was taken to grant a delay up to the end of this year to agricultural producers from paying interest on issued credits." In Gerashchenko's opinion, this will defuse somewhat the difficult financial situation in the countryside.He supported congress delegates who favoured the establishment of peasants' banks in Russia and promised every kind of support on his part.

Former Russian Vice-Premier Yegor Gaydar challenged a thesis, now in vogue, on the equality of all forms of farming in the countryside. Gaydar stressed that, taking into account unequal starting conditions in the first years of their operation, farmers cannot compete with big agricultural producers.

Mindful of this, the present government, he said, "should give farmers greater support", including that for establishing peasants banks. There is no need for new bright ideas, Gaydar continued, since Russia has already the agricultural bank's network.

It is only necessary to create adequate conditions and grant privileges at the initial stage in issuing both long-term and short- term credits for the countryside, he added.

In Gaydar's opinion, the present government should continue previous work to liberalise the export of Russian agricultural produce and to take additional moves to establish a land market.

Shokhin Reports on Outcome of Economics Collegium

LD0902204094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1850 GMT 9 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow, 9 Feb—Russian Economics Minister Aleksandr Shokhin spoke out in support of pursuing a policy of state regulation in the economy in a rational manner. At a news conference that took place today he told journalists about the expanded session of the collegium of the Ministry of Economics, which has been held. At the collegium, new economic programs were presented that had been drawn up by creative collectives under the leadership of academician Stanislav Shatalin, Yevgeniy Saburov, director of the Center of Information and Social Technologies under the Russian Government, as well as the joint program of Sergey Glazyev, chairman of the Committee for the State Duma's Economic Policy, and Dmitriy Lvov, corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Shatalin's program will moreover be presented to the deputies of the State Duma on 10 February.

Shokhin thinks that the government should pursue a policy of state control over the prices of monopolists in some sectors of industry. According to the minister, such monopolists as the power generating engineers and the railmen have already started to have an effect on the economy as a whole by raising production tariffs. This is something that the government cannot properly reconcile itself to. Besides this, Shokhin spoke out in favor of reforms in society being socially oriented. In this connection, he noted, some kind of alarm indicators should be worked out that set the maximum admissible state of the economy and, in particular, of the social sphere, the bounds of which one should not overstep. Otherwise the government will lose its control over the economy, he stressed.

Shokhin criticized a number of provisions presented in the new economic programs. These were, for example, the striving to freeze the ruble exchange rate, as well as Shatalin's proposal that inflation should be lowered by freezing prices for three to five months. However, Shokhin upheld the proposal that it was necessary for the government to work out more stringent measures for the making of payments and computations with regard to producers.

Shokhin mentioned—as one of the main results of today's discussion—the mutual desire of all those taking part to form an authoritative commission that would collect the ideas of the government and society's economic elite. The economics minister thinks that quotas may be abolished in the second quarter. This is explained, he added, by the fact that Russian prices are already comparable with world prices in many cases.

Shatalin, who took part in the meeting, noted that people were by no means unanimous on all points at the collegium. Those taking part in the discussion, he noted, expressed various points of view on such issues as the pursuing of a social policy, a system of state price regulation, as well as a tax policy.

Chernomyrdin Chairs Conference on Oil Industry

LD0902223394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2106 GMT 9 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—The Russian Government held a conference on problems of the oil industry on Wednesday evening. The conference, chaired by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, was attended by heads of ministries and departments and managers of largest oil enterprises of the country.

The conference was held behind closed doors, but according to information received by ITAR-TASS, representatives of the oil industry raised the problem of overdue payments to oil and gas enterprises, exorbitant taxes and inadequate price policies pursued by the state in the field of energy resources.

It was pointed out that 28 different kinds of taxes are currently levied on one tonne of oil, which makes up 77 per cent of its cost. Besides, new taxes are going to be levied by local authorities in 1994, which will render normal development of the industry impossible.

Participants coordinated a package of documents aimed at resolving these problems. The package is expected to include a decree of the Russian president and a number of resolutions adopted by the government which shall be finalized in a week's time.

Commenting on the results of the conference, Russian Minister for Fuel and Energy Yuriy Shafrannik said that participants adopted a decision to increase the share of free oil sales for oil enterprises. A concrete figure specifying the increased amount of free oil sales will be determined in the near future, Shafrannik said. He pointed out that in 1994, oil exports from Russia are expected to remain at the 1993 level.

Official Says Agro-Industrial Reform Continues

LD1002012894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1918 GMT 9 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksandr Dzyublo and Aleksey Filatov]

[Text] Moscow, 9 February—"The Russian Government's course of reforming the agro-industrial complex remains unchanged." This was stated today by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Zaveryukha. He was addressing delegates at the fifth congress of the Private Farms and Agricultural Cooperatives Association [AKKOR].

The deputy prime minister gave a positive assessment of the work in 1993 of the private farmers who have been "by their example showing the whole of the peasantry how it is necessary in very complex conditions to strive to achieve production efficiency. Unfortunately, as a whole there is still not enough of this efficiency." The deputy prime minister stated that the government is now earnestly engaged in untying the "tight knots." In particular he stated that "a government decision is being prepared that will define the relationship between the state and the agricultural producers in 1994."

On long-term problems, Aleksandr Zaveryukha suggested to those assembled that they become earnestly engaged in setting up peasant banks and organizing insurance companies that could help private farmers resolve questions of credit and compensation for losses arising from unforeseen circumstances.

The fifth congress of AKKOR is to continue its work on 10 February.

Soskovets on Issue of Mutual Nonpayment

PM0902154194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Feb 94 First Edition p 1

[Interview with First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets conducted by Aleksandr Golyayev under the "In the Russian Federation Government" rubric; place and date not given: "Where Unpaid Debts End Up"]

[Text] Questions concerned with setting up investment funds in the fuel and energy complex and measures to regulate the system of tariffs for electricity and heating in 1994 were discussed at the latest session of the government commission on current issues. Prior to it First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets gave a briefing to Russian journalists.

[Soskovets] The main thing is to solve the problem of inflation. Credit will be allocated more strictly and we will have to get down to organizing production at the same time. What does that mean? The system of settlements must be adjusted, not in the sense that the budget be used to clear enterprises' reciprocal debts but in the sense of helping those who are linked by a common manufacturing process or production-sharing relationship to find a mutually acceptable method. Pricing policy must be improved. Prices for services, transport, and energy are going to grow, and the government's actions in that area must be understood by all.

[Golyayev] Oleg Nikolayevich, I have heard people say that the whole problem of the state's insolvency is down to enterprises and the debts owed by one plant to another or one sector—subcontractors—to another. The government, which is failing to draw up a program to regulate relations among enterprises, is guilty.

[Soskovets] The problem of nonpayments is a topical one, and here one thing is bound up with another: Enterprises don't have money and consequently the state's pocket is empty. Manufacturers are a prime source of finance for the exchequer. But what are they doing to ensure they get back what they are owed? Nonpayments have always existed, and I know from my own experience that whether an enterprise recovers the money it has earned depends to a large extent on its leader. If you just sit around and wait, you won't get a red cent. The money doesn't disappear, after all, it's there, someone who does not deem it necessary to return it unless he receives a demand has got it in his possesion.

Let's take the chain constituted by VAZ [the Volga Automobile Plant], the Lipetsk metallugical combine, Vorkutaugol, and the Lebedinskiy ore-dressing combine. One provides raw materials, another the power supply, a third the sheet metal, and the fourth the actual vehicles. They have reciprocal debts while the Zhiguli is the most popular, if one may put it that way, automobile on sale, but money does not move along the chain. That is to say, there are structures—commercial or banking—which find this advantageous. How will the government help here? Under market relations the government does not lay down the law, people have to be accustomed to be self-reliant. I asked the leaders of VAZ: What's the problem? You will understand, they answered: the structures of the stores are such... But who founded LogoVAZ? Make your demands there!

You have the same situation with petroleum: There is the well-refinery-gas station chain. The product is in great demand, but there's no money. And what's the government's got to do with this? Yes, it is a taxing, dreary chore prising money out of people, but it has to be done—links must be forged, otherwise you go bankrupt.

[Golyayev] Has the "beefing" about nonpayments within sectors been exaggerated, are there people doing this deliberately?

[Soskovets] I'm not in doubt. There are many ways of "wearing down" a debtor—the tax police, the tax inspectorate, and much else besides. You have to act rather than waiting to hear what the government will say on this score. While people are waiting for a piece of paper from above, there's no knowing where tens of trillions of rubles are fetching up.

Many examples of proper market relations could be cited where goods are delivered on time and paid for in full. We have people in this country who understand the market and know how to work and live not just in terms of the present. Unfortunately, the majority ask the state to provide, and if they receive nothing they curse the government for not having organized the system of reciprocal settlements and for consequently being the wrong kind of reformers.

Report Summarizes Progress of Privatization

LD0902160894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1252 GMT 9 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—The implementation of laws of the Russian Federation, of the Russian president's decrees and orders by executive authorities is verified by the Control Agency. The agency has summed up the results of its work for a year. ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA publishes fragments from the report on Wednesday.

The economic reform is in the focus of the Control Agency's attention. It follows the implementation of the president's decree on urgent measures for land reform. Radical restructuring of agricultural production has been carried out as a result of implementing provisions of the decree. Measures to privatise considerable part of land used by collective and state farms have been implemented. As many as 23,798 economies, or 93 per cent of their total number, have been reorganised and reregistered as of October 1, 1993. As many as 14,540 joint-stock companies, peasant economies associations, partnerships and farming cooperatives have been formed on the basis of reregistered economies. 267 thousand peasant (farmer) economies having a total of 11.2 million hectares of land have also been set up.

At the same time surveys indicated that the pace of the land reform is not quite rapid in a number of regions. Sometimes new forms of farming economies are not backed by heads of local administrations.

There were delays about providing plots of land to citizens in the Altay and Krasnodar territories, Omsk and Vladimir regions. Executive authorities and heads of collective and state farms are to blame for this. Sometimes they even put oblstacles to the distribution of plots of land. Sanctions envisaged for law violations have not been appllied.

Gross violations of the land legislation were made during the privatisation of land.

The pace of the setting up of peasant economies in the country has slackened. As many as 47 thousand peasant economies were formed in the first quarter of 1993, 28,300 in the second quarter, 7,200 in the third quarter and only 3,400 in October and November. What is more, 15,700 peasant economies gave up their plots of land by late 1993. Farmers are not given the necessary material and technical support, are unsatisfactorily supplied with funds and other resources. Quite often they are given plots unsuitable for farming. As many as 117 peasant economies, or 6.2 per cent, were liquidated for this reason in the Ryazan region by early October in 1993. More than 500 peasant economies, or 16 per cent, were liquidated in the Sverglovsk region.

Funds allocated by the state to aid farmer economies are quite often spent for other purposes. The enhancing of the efficiency of farmers is checked by delayed payment for the produced and marketed output. The state owes more than 800 billion roubles to grain growers.

Efforts of officials of the control agency were also aimed at veryfying the implementation of the Russian president's decrees "On the Speedy Privatisation of State and Municipal Entreprises", "On Organisational measures To Transform State-Run Entreprises and Voluntary Associations of State Entreprises into Joint-Stock Companies", "On the Regulation of Lease and Privatisation of Property of Leased State and Municipal Entreprises". During checks special attention was given to enhancing the effectiveness of privatised facilities.

Checks indicated that committees for the management of the state property of territories and regions in many cases failed duly to organise privatisation of state property and veryfication of the procedure. Questions of turning entreprises into joint-stock companies are resolved with delay. State funds resulting from privatisation are sometimes used for other purposes. The Russian president's decree envisaging that the transformation of state-run entreprises and their voluntary associations into joint-stock companies be completed in 1992 has not been fullfield completely in all of the surveyed regions. According to the information of the Russian State Property Committee, out of the 4,859 entreprises that were to be turned into joint-stock companies, only 2,545 joint-stock companies, or just over half the expected number, were registered as of December 1, 1993.

Federal Assembly

Duma Forms International Affairs Subcommittees

PM0902135594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Feb 94 First Edition p 3

[Vladimir Mikheyev report: "Duma Recommendations on Ambassador Candidacies Will Not Be Mandatory"]

[Text] A session of the Duma's Committee for International Affairs devoted to structural and organizational questions has decided to form six subcommittees. These being subcommittees on problems of the United Nations and international organizations and also on interparliamentary relations; an international-legal subcommittee that will tackle human rights; a subcommittee on foreign economic problems; a subcommittee for cultural, scientific, and humanitarian cooperation; and one dealing with the international aspects of security and disarmament.

The subcommittee on cadre policy, whose task is primarily to examine the candidacies of Russia's future foreign ambassadors, was a separate issue. The discussion of its activity aroused the greatest commotion since it is directly linked with Article 83 of the Russian Federation Constitution, which reads as follows: The president "appoints and recalls after consultations with the relevant committees or commissions of the chambers of the Federal Assembly diplomatic representatives of the Russian Federation in foreign states and international organizations."

Members of the committee agreed that the Committee for International Affairs is responsible for all appointments to distant foreign countries, while the Committee for CIS Affairs is left with nearby foreign countries.

The clause of the Constitution was interpreted as follows: On the one hand, holding consultations is a mandatory part of the procedure for "appointing or recalling ambassadors," but, on the other hand, the recommendations of the relevant committees are not binding on the president. It is advisable to hold consultations in the period between the new ambassador's being ratified by the Foreign Ministry Collegium and the president's issuing an edict.

Ambassadors' candidacies will be discussed at committee sessions and not coordinated with the head of the committee or with any of its members which should, according to Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the Committee for International Affairs, "ensure openness and glasnost."

"However, the candidate for the responsible post must answer questions. The presence of experts and the press, barring those cases when delicate aspects of national security may be involved, is not prohibited," the head of the committee told IZVESTIYA.

This procedure for conducting hearings will be recommended for inclusion in the Duma's standing orders, after which it will have the force of law.

"At this stage there are no differences of opinion with the Foreign Ministry or the president's administration on this matter," Vladimir Lukin added.

Procedure for Ousting Lukin Criticized

PM0902153594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 9 Feb 94 p 7

[A. Aleksandrov article: "Thinking (dumayushchiy—containing word "duma" in bold print) Ambassador. Is Lukin Wearing His Deputy's or His Ambassador's Hat Today?"]

[Text] The State Duma International Affairs Committee intends to send President Boris Yeltsin an interesting document. This is its approximate content: Having considered your inquiry about the recall of Vladimir Lukin from the post of Russian Federation Ambassador to Washington, we express our agreement with his recall. At the same time we must inform you that probably for technical reasons your inquiry failed to reach our committee.

Through this message the committee is reminding the president of his constitutional obligations or, to be more accurate, of his obligation to appoint and recall ambassadors only after consultations with the International Affairs Committees of both Federal Assembly chambers. But a strange situation has come about: Vladimir Lukin, elected a State Duma deputy and soon after chairman of a State Duma committee, has not yet been officially recalled from his previous position as ambassador and is consequently technically speaking serving in two roles. Whichever way you look at it, the Constitution is being contravened. Not at all because Lukin wants this but owing to the forgetfulness of the people in the presidential apparatus who should be making sure that the Constitution is being implemented—especially in such minor and simple matters as an ambassador's recall.

This situation is, however, certainly not absolutely unimportant. There has not until now been a sufficiently clear idea in the committee of how to interpret the reference in the Constitution to "consultations." The enquiry sent to the Russian Foreign Ministry seeking clarification by 1 February remained unanswered several days after the deadline.

People within the committee think that there is no point in insisting on the American procedure for appointing ambassadors whereby the final say rests with the Senate.

In Lukin's view, notification should be given in writing, after which hearings should take place in which experts and, of course, the nominees themselves participate, then the committee should make a decision which is brought to the president's attention and automatically made public. If the committee supports a candidacy proposed by the president, there is no problem. If, on the other hand, there are objections and the president nevertheless insists on his choice, then, Lukin says, the ambassador will have to live with the knowledge that people throughout the world, as well as in the country where he is posted, will know that parliament rejected his candidacy. Incidentally, the "unwanted" ambassador is not to be envied in these circumstances.

The committee will have to try out this mechanism in practice in the very near future. Several key ambassadorial appointments are expected: Yuliy Vorontsov will replace Lukin in Washington, and current Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will replace Vorontsov at the United Nations. Lukin will finally have to be recalled....

Yeltsin Urges Amnesty After Constitution Adoption

LD0902151594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1145 GMT 9 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin asked the State Duma, the standing lower chamber of the parliament, to pass a resolution on amnesty in the wake of the adoption of Russia's new constitution.

The house will consider the president's legislative initiative on Friday, February 11, according to Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin.

The Duma will also have to finalise debates about its chief of staff, after failing to choose one out of seven candidates for the post at its meetings on February 7 and 8.

The Duma chairman told today's session that some house committees have been instructed to draft a bill on combatting crime. The Duma as also expected to hold hearings about local self-government and preparations for the elections to the local bodies of power in the component parts of the Russian Federation. According to some sources, communists and other right-wingers are set to struggle for a majority in many regions.

Further on Committee Investigating Moscow Events

LD0902152294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1138 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] The State Duma, the lower house of Russia's Parliament, decided on Wednesday to set up a parliamentary commission to investigate the causes of the events in Moscow in September-October 1993, when about 150 people died.

A total of 274 lawmakers voted for creating such a body, 46 voted against, and 20 abstained from voting. The motion was put forward by Sergey Baburin, the leader of the "Russian Way" Duma faction and chairman of the All-Russia National Union. In backing up his proposal, Baburin stressed that the Duma had neglected "its moral duties to those who died," and until the circumstances of the events in Moscow last October are properly investigated, "the blood will be not only on the government but on the State Duma as well."

Russia's Choice member Gleb Yakunin argued that since a formal investigation was under way, the motion on a parliamentary commission should be postponed until the end of the inquiry.

Stanislav Govorukhin (the Democratic Party) noted that since the events were being investigated as a crime, it is hardly possible to assess "the scale of the tragedy, and the political motives and circumstances that led to the dissolution of parliament in October 1993."

Local Elections To Proceed Despite Opposition

MK1002110094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 10 Feb 94 p 2

[Vladimir Todres report in the "Campaign" column: "The State Duma Wishes Local Elections Well. They Will Go Ahead, Although the Liberal Democratic Party, the Communist Party, and the Democratic Party Oppose Them"]

[Text] The State Duma tried to interfere in the preparations for local elections but failed once again: None of the three draft resolutions on local elections got the requisite majority of votes yesterday. All three documents were sent to be further reworked which, according to deputies' estimates, will last for at least a week. This means that preparation for the elections has been left to the local authorities. The glaring violations already observed in a number of regions will apparently never be rectified.

In 64 Russian Federation components, local elections have been set for various dates in March and in another three for April. Boris Yeltsin's October edict defined merely the "basic guidelines," leaving the elaboration of the final procedures to the discretion of regional authorities (in fact the governors).

The greatest public response has been evoked by the limitations of the franchise in the form of residence and professional qualifications introduced by Anatoliy Sobchak in St. Petersburg: Yet now it appears that his example has been followed by authorities in other regions. Furthermore, Duma experts say that in many regions the rights of observers have been limited. In Tula Oblast, the deputy administration chief has appropriated the right to appoint part of the deputies to the representative body.

Two draft resolutions out of the three—submitted by the Duma's committees on regional policy and local self-government and the Yabloko bloc—invited the president "to take measures to correct the violation of citizens' voting rights." The third—from the Liberal Democratic Party—proposed to cancel the elections altogether. All three were defeated.

The debate, however, showed a curious distribution of votes. The idea of holding the elections but with a revised procedure has been supported by Women of Russia, Yabloko, and the Party of Russian Unity and Accord [PRES]. The Zhirinovskiy followers, the communists, and the Travkin party want to call off the elections, in spite of the fact that forecasts are promising the "restorationists" success in many regions. As for the reformers, the Russia's Choice leader in confidential conversations with journalists was rather pessimistic. PRES deputy Anatoliy Sliva attributed the communists' and liberal democrats' mood to their hopes for coming to power in the capital, riding on the crest of a wave brought about by economic collapse this coming summer, and therefore they do not consider it reasonable to change authority at the local level.

It is perfectly clear, however, that local elections will be held as scheduled, regardless of the mood in the deputy corps. But, as Yabloko deputy Vyacheslav Igrunov noted, the elections "could have looked more decent but it seems that we have missed the chance."

Regional Affairs

Chechnya Not To Participate in Assembly Elections

LD0902155994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1138 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] There will be no elections in Chechnya in the near future, Interfax was told by President Dzhokhar Dudayev, answering the question whether Chechnya intends to take part in the March by-elections to the Russian Federal Assembly.

"Russia has had the elections and we congratulate it with their successful completion," said the president. "As to Chechnya, it held the elections in 1991 (the presidential elections after which the republic proclaimed its independence—'IF')."

"The Chechen people have made their choice," said Dudayev. He said that another presidential election in Chechnya would take place in 1995, while the parliamentary elections were planned for 1996.

"If there is a need for early elections to some power structures of the republic, this will be announced by leaders of the independent Chechen Republic," said the president.

Chechen Minister Urges Russia To Pursue Compromise

LD0902160294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1138 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Chechen Foreign Minister Shamseddin Yusef has called on Russia to pursue a policy of compromise in relationships with his republic. In an interview with Interfax he said that if today the Chechen leadership had wished, under Moscow pressure, to re-enter the Russian Federation, the "Chechen people would not have understood it."

If Moscow recognizes Chechnya's right to independence which it proclaimed two and a half years ago, "we shall remain good friends with Russia," said Yusef.

He believes that economics may be the basis for any political dialogue, including between Groznyy and Moscow. He said that the prospects for a political dialogue must lead to such dialogue.

Yusef said that the need for the earliest settlement of relations with Russia was the reason for the Chechen president's refusal to visit the United States "at the invitation of the American side." The minister did not specify who precisely invited Dudayev.

Chechen Opposition Figure Detained in Groznyy

LD1002130494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Major General Ibragim Suleymenov, a Chechen opposition leader, and several of his colleagues have been detained in the center of Groznyy, Sultan Geliskhanov, chief of the State Security Department of Chechnya told INTERFAX. A large quantity of weapons—including two grenade launchers, four submachine guns, ammunition, narcotics, and counterfeit money—were confiscated from Suleymenov's group. The detainees are being held at a State Security Department remand center.

Next Chechnya Presidential Elections in 1995

MK1002105094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 10 Feb 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Chechnya Will Elect President in Next Elections"]

[Text] No elections are envisioned in Chechnya in the near future, President Dzhokhar Dudayev has stated. "If elections have been held in Russia, we congratulate it on their successful completion," he said. "As for Chechnya, elections here were held in 1991" (when the president was elected and the republic's independence was proclaimed). According to him, the next presidential elections in Chechnya will take place in 1995 and new parliamentary elections are planned for 1996.

Tatar Leaders View Relations With Russia

PM0902174394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Feb 94 p 1

[Oleg Bedula and Aleksandr Bugay report: "We Must Be Realists. Tatar President and Prime Minister on Prospects for Developing Mutual Relations With Russia"]

[Text] Speaking at the latest session of parliament, Mintimer Shaymiyev said that "you have to be a pragmatist and a realist and see what actually exists, not what you want. We are being guided by this approach in building relations between Tatarstan and the Russian Federation." He stressed that the treaty on the demarcation of areas of responsibility and mutual delegation of powers by organs of state power of the Republic of Tatarstan and the Russian Federation is based on the harmonization of the two constitutions—the Russian and Tatar Constitutions—and unconditional respect for human rights, irrespective of people's nationality, sex, or religion.

"It must be said that what is being produced is a completely new and unprecedented document which pays special attention to the sphere of the realms of competence of the organs of state power of the Russian Federation and Tatarstan." This treaty, Shaymiyev stressed, "will be a testament to the reform of Russia and the renewal of the Russian Federation on the basis of democratic principles and a guarantee of Tatarstan's statehood."

Tatar Prime Minister Mukhammat Sabirov observed in turn that he could not conceive of there being no representative in the Russian Duma and Federation Council "able to state the republic's position competently and convincingly." The premier believes that on 13 March (the day of the repeat elections) we must work to ensure that the people turn out to choose worthy representatives. We are to have two people in the Federation Council and five in the Duma. They must be unpoliticized people with good minds who can think clearly, who are committed to their own people, and who can protect their interests.

Sabirov talked about the separation from the Federation Council desired by radical nationals as a politician with a firm grasp of the situation:

"We can show our pride and say: Politically we are now independent.... But in three or four days or in a week we will be on our knees, saying: We cannot live like this."

The premier also cleared up the question of mutual relations with federal organs of power.

"Ultimatums are not a path which the people of Tatarstan can take. We must take only the path of routine work, hard, stressful work...of agreements, and of a treaty, which must define the Republic of Tatarstan's special place—both politically and economically and in all other respects."

Tatarstan Develops Trade With Western Countries

PM1002092194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Feb 94 First Edition p 3

[Marsel Zaripov article under the rubric "Interstate Ties": "At the Crossroads of Asia and Europe"]

[Text] Many people have written about Kazan, the capital of Tatarstan, but it was surely Herzen, the "eternal exile," who described the city's character most accurately when he said: "It is the main caravanserai on the road taking European ideas into Asia and the Asiatic character into Europe."

That description remains true to this day.

In Tatarstan's political life the last week of January had a Spanish theme. A republic delegation headed by President Mintimer Shaymiyev spent five days on a working visit to Madrid. The result of the visit was a major treaty on economic, trade, cultural, and information partnership and the creation of favorable conditions for contacts between commodity producers, cultural institutions, and scientists.

Spain is not the first foreign country with which Tatarstan is forging direct ties and establishing permanent business bridges. Treaties have already been concluded with Turkey, Austria, and Greece.

Each interstate act of this kind marks the beginning of the development of ties and contacts at the level of firms, offices, and institutions, which also carry out joint programs. True, there is one highly significant difference here. The traditionally eastern term "caravanserai" included the market ethos of fairs, bazaars, and trading places. Nowadays this phrase signifies not so much an exchange of goods as a distribution of ideas and technologies and a pooling of efforts in the solution of common technical, production, and social tasks. True, the main rule of cooperation is older than life itself: what to sell, how much to sell, what price to pay for it, and what profit to take.

One of the main problems which Tatarstan is determinedly and persistently working on is not to become obsessed with simple commodity exchange but to organize cooperation in the production sphere and tackle projects which will benefit the partners and the republic itself. It is important that the revenue from the sale of goods abroad exceeds spending on imports.

In 1993 the republic's foreign trade turnover rose by 45.9 percent and reached U.S. $948 million. Exports rose 73.3 percent to $761 million. In the system of world trade Tatarstan's goods are distributed as follows: one quarter of its exports go to the U.S. market, 13.2 percent to Germany, 12.2 percent to Turkey, 9.3 percent to Hungary, and 7.5 percent to Switzerland. The export register includes oil, too, but machine building and petrochemical goods form a large part.

However, the import indicators look far more modest—just $187.4 million.

There are also around 50 joint ventures with mixed capital involved in export trade and import purchases but their role at the moment is a purely token one. For instance, the 0.5 billion tonnes of oil which such firms account for represents just 2 percent of total extraction.

Luzhkov's Opposition to Privatization Examined

LD0902191494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1829 GMT 9 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Galkin]

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—Anatoliy Chubays, Russian deputy prime minister and privatization chief, suggested that Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov opposed large-scale privatization in the capital for political considerations. Chubays told a special briefing on Wednesday that Luzhkov's criticism of privatization was most likely prompted by the fact that presently he is launching his own presidential campaign. The best way of conducting an election campaign is certainly vehement criticism which never fails to yield political dividends.

But this was not the only reason for Luzhkov's behaviour, according to Chubays. The Moscow mayor may also resist privatization because it would deprive him of the property Luzhkov would not like to let go. While privatization aims to snatch this property from the hands of state officials and to transfer it to 150 million holders of privatization checks.

The State Property Committee chief told reporters that only 12 large businesses had floated their capital in Moscow during the past two years, which amounts to 2 per cent of enterprises subject to privatization. Chubays qualified this as a complete failure of large-scale privatization in the Russian capital.

As for small privatization in Moscow, the deputy prime minister said it had been carried out illegally. Almost all assets of shops and stores were transferred to salesmen virtually for next to nothing. As a result, Moscow lost tens of billion of roubles of potential revenues.

Chubays said he would demand that Moscow leaders strictly observe the laws, decrees and resolutions pertaining to privatization, including through court.

Tambov Chief Criticizes Bureaucrats, Resigns

MK0902133094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 9 Feb 94 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "Provincial Chronicle" rubric: "Tambov"]

[Text] The Russian Federation president's representative in Tambov Oblast has said he has decided to resign because "a bureaucratic coup is being staged in the country, bureaucrats have seized power, and the president has been deprived of the ability to govern." He believes that the oblast is sliding into an economic abyss, because industry and the agricultural sector are headed by people who are "unable to work under market conditions."

Grachev Ends Visit to Volga Region

LD0902203494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2015 GMT 9 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev ended a three-day visit to the Volga Military District and returned to Moscow on Wednesday evening.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS before departure to Moscow Grachev said that he was satisfied with good combat readiness of Russian troops which was confirmed by the results of an inspection of five military units belonging to the military district.

The defence minister positively assessed the construction of houses for Russian servicemen withdrawn from abroad, adding that the construction was going ahead at a fast pace. Grachev visited three regions and one republic and pointed out that he was satisfied with the attitude of local authorities to servicemen.

On Wednesday, Grachev visited troops stationed in the Ulyanovsk region, defence-related enterprises and met with regional heads and the city administration. While at the "Aviastar" joint stock society, the biggest aviation enterprise in Europe, Grachev said that in the near future priority in defence aircraft will be given to military-transport planes capable of transporting forces of the Defence Ministry to any region. This task is envisaged by the Russian military doctrine which lays the emphasis on mobile rapid deployment force.

North Ossetian President Receives Russian Deputies

LD0902194894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1312 GMT 9 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 9 Feb—"North Ossetia is prepared to move consistently toward establishing normal relations with all its neighbors. Strong-arm methods should not be used on the path toward peace, for force gives gives rise only to force." These words were uttered by North Ossetian President Akhsarbek Galazov, who today received a Russian parliamentary delegation which is visiting the region. The delegation is headed by Valeriy Fateyev, member of the upper chamber's security committee.

During the meeting between the president and the parliamentarians there was discussion of the problems of regulating the situation in the state of emergency zone on the territory of North Ossetia and Ingushetia. In the opinion of Akhsarbek Galazov, "the problem of the return of refugees must be solved in an integrated manner on the basis of the Kislovodsk agreements. In this complicated question the coordinating commissions which have been set up in all populated points of Prigorodnyy Rayon have the deciding word."

Valeriy Fateyev told the ITAR-TASS correspondent that the aim of the parliamentarians' visit to North Ossetia and Ingushetia is to gather objective information about the situation in the conflict zone, to assess the situation in the region, and to try to find a path toward peace and accord between the two republics. They are to have meetings with the leadership of Ingushetia, the interim administration, and various categories of refugees, and will visit populated points of Prigorodnyy Rayon. "The path toward peace and accord," Valeriy Fateyev stressed, "is long and hard, but it must be sought. There must be a stable situation in the northern Caucasus."

Seven Maritime Kray Regions Form Economic Union

LD1002112994 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0705 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Seven northern regions in Maritime Kray have formed an economic union and this, fortunately, has nothing to do with separatist ideas. On the contrary, the geography and common economic problems point to the need for a consolidation of efforts in the interests of the whole of Maritime Kray.

The most urgent task is to shake up the mining and fur industries in these regions by spring, to protect the environment, and prevent natural resources being exported. The organization will be a kind of economic mini-community within Maritime Kray, which is a Russian Federation subject, and it will not have any political goals.

Maritime Kray Halts Payments to Federal Budget

LD1002104194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0130 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Summary] Local government in Maritime Kray has stopped making payments earmarked for revival of the raw minerals industry into the federal budget. This will enable geological prospecting and mining enterprises to retain tens of millions of rubles that they can use to revive the local minerals industry and to help alleviate social difficulties for the work forces of the Solnechnyy mining and enrichment combine, the Uralskoye mine administration, and a number of prospecting cooperatives. The Amur gold mining cooperative has already, with the consent of the tax inspectorate, put funds into stabilizing the financial position of the Ayano-Mayskiy mining and geology enterprise.

Reductions in funding from the federal budget have halted all prospecting work and all growth in exploitation of known natural resources in the kray. Extra funds promised by the Russian Federation Government to stabilize the industry have not been allocated this year.

Emergency Fuel Situation in Kaliningrad Noted

LD1002094094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] A special situation has been declared in Kaliningrad Oblast as of today in connection with an acute shortage of fuel resources. The shortage of fuel has been caused by the insolvency of enterprises that cannot pay suppliers. A headquarters has been set up under the head of administration to distribute the available fuel allocating it, first of all, to the vitally important industries.

Safety Work Halted at Nuclear Power Station

PM1002113594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Feb 94 First Edition p 1

[Letter from Bilibino AES collective followed by unattributed report: "Halting AES Is Not Like Closing a Barn"]

[Text] An extremely grave situation has taken shape at the Bilibino AES [nuclear electric power station]—the only source of electricity supplies on Chukotka—because of consumers' nonpayments for electricity and heating. The deterioration of the financial situation has obliged the station's specialists as of May 1993 to halt all safety work. There were only sufficient funds for current operation. Today the acquisition of equipment which is extremely necessary for the AES' safe operation has stopped completely. Nuclear fuel was last delivered in September. Planned repair is threatened with disruption.

Wages are paid with interruptions of two to three months. We are not able even to travel to the funerals of our relations because of the high cost of air tickets. Under northern conditions the inevitable increase in prices for food has brought many specialists to the poverty line.

The survival of the entire region depends on us. We are doing everything necessary for the safe operation of the AES. But with every passing day it is becoming harder to do this. Our repeated appeals to the sectorial government organs have brought no tangible results.

[Signed] The Bilibino AES collective

The editorial office was told at the "Rosenergoatom" state concern that unfortunately the situation is typical of the majority of AES's. Taxpayers' total debts as of today are 351 billion rubles. Because of this other AES's are threatened with stoppage. Matters are no better with regard to the social situation at enterprises. The payment for thermal and electrical energy is through the Russian "Integrated Energy System of Russia" joint stock company, which has managed to collect only 17 percent of the necessary funds. Electric power lines and electrical power stations are under the company's jurisdiction but the function it has assumed as a connecting link between electricity producers and consumer has prove beyond it. Hundreds of nuclear electric power stations are unable to acquire fuel or carry out current repairs.

International Affairs

Zlenko Signs 'Partnership for Peace' Document

LD0902172794 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Taking account of its geopolitical situation, independent and democratic Ukraine will play an important part in creating security on the continent. This was stated by Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko while on an official visit to Brussels. He met journalists during the ceremony of signing a document on Ukraine's participation in the Partnership for Peace program.

What can our country offer NATO as a partner? Answering this question, the head of Ukraine's Foreign Ministry said that participation in the Partnership for Peace would be in three directions: Primarily, this is joint military personnel exercises and training; participation in peace-keeping operations; and the development of these peacekeeping operations. He emphasized that Ukraine would take part in all programs linked with (?maintaining peace).

Journalists also showed interest in Zlenko's opinion with regard to what the reaction of Russia would be to Ukraine's involvement in the Partnership for Peace. To all appearances it will be positive, Anatoliy Zlenko answered.

Foreign Minister Pays Official Visit to Spain

Holds Talks With Spanish Premier

LD0902175394 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Our correspondent reports from Madrid that Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko, who is on an official visit to Spain, today held a number of meetings with Spanish high-ranking officials. He had a conversation with Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, Commerce and Tourism Minister Gomez-Navarro, and Defense Minister Garcia Vargas.

Anatoliy Zlenko informed them about the political and economic situation in Ukraine and spoke of the need to establish trade relations and military cooperation between the two states, and to this end lay the legal foundation required.

This afternoon a meeting was held between the Ukrainian foreign affairs minister and Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana. They initialed an agreement on friendship and cooperation between Ukraine and Spain, and signed a memorandum on the freedom movement.

Maintains Opposition to Air Strikes

LD0902211694 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1900 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Russia and Ukraine, the two big Slav republics, maintain their total opposition to any kind of action by NATO forces against the Serbs in Bosnia. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko, who has just made a speech in Madrid after his visit with Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana, repeated his view that air strikes could cause an escalation of the war.

He particularly underlined the danger involved for the civilian population, as well as for the Blue Helmet contingents stationed in the area.

[Begin Zlenko recording, in Spanish] I am very worried about the present situation in this region because the military contingent from my country is in Sarajevo, and you know that this situation makes us search for other solutions. [end recording]

Pleased With First Day of Visit

LD1002074294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0709 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Shekhovtsov]

[Text] Madrid February 10 TASS—The first day of my visit to Spain was very strenuous and effective, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko, now on an official visit here, told ITAR-TASS. He said his conversation with head of the Spanish Government Felipe Gonzalez was interesting and substantial. They discussed a number of international problems, as well as prospects of the development of Spanish-Ukrainian relations.

On the same day, Zlenko continued, he had talks with his Spanish counterpart Javier Solana. The two sides initialled the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Ukraine and Spain, signed a document on the freedom of movement of their citizens on each other's territory and discussed a number of agreements due to be signed soon. Aside from it, during the talks some matters were settled, which are connected with the preparation of an official visit of Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk to Spain, which is planned to take place in the first half of the current year.

According to Zlenko, a lively interest of Spanish business people in developing cooperation with Ukraine came as a surprise to him. He discussed the development of economic relations with Minister of Trade and Tourism Javier Gomez Navarro and at a meeting with representatives of the Spanish business and financial circles.

During the talks with Defence Minister Julian Garcia Vargas the sides devoted much attention to the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where both Spanish and Ukrainian soldiers are serving as part of the U.N. peacekeeping contingent. They exchanged views concerning the propopsals on the settlement of the Balkan conflict, which are being discussed at the NATO headquarters. The stands of Ukraine and Spain on those proposals are almost identical. Both sides believe it is necessary to further look for political ways of settling the conflict. Maximum effort should be exerted for attaining a peaceful settlement without permitting the militarisation of that region. Otherwise U.N. troops made up of soldiers from Spain, Ukraine, Russia and other countries may become hostages of the ill-considered decisions taken by politicians or diplomats, Zlenko said.

Interviewed on Dangers of Separatism

PM1002104494 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 7 Feb 94 p 8

[Interview with Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko by Rafael Poch; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Poch] Kravchuk agreed in Massandra last year to hand over the whole Black Sea Fleet to Russia. Will that agreement be carried out?

[Zlenko] Kravchuk and Yeltsin had already discussed that matter at meetings before Massandra, such as those in Yalta and Dagomis. Ukraine's stance was clear. As an heir to the former USSR, it is entitled to part of its property, including part of the Black Sea Fleet. This fact, acknowledged by everybody, was confirmed at the Yalta meeting. It was agreed there that the Black Sea Fleet would be divided into two parts—a Ukrainian part and a Russian part—and also that the fleet would remain under joint command until complete agreement on its apportionment. Proceeding from its economic and military interests, Ukraine, as a sovereign state, is entitled to dispose of its part of the fleet. That is why in Massandra Yeltsin and Kravchuk signed a document which mentioned the possibility of Ukraine's selling to Russia its part of the fleet. Following Massandra, we are discussing aspects of the valuation and apportionment of the fleet, but it is premature to speak of a final agreement and even of its implementation.

[Poch] Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Tarasyuk said that any attempt to exploit the situation in Crimea will call into question the agreement on disarmament signed by Kravchuk, Clinton, and Yeltsin. Are you making the disarmament agreement, which has now been signed, conditional upon stability in Crimea?

[Zlenko] The situation in Crimea in general and its presidential election are internal matters of Crimea and Ukraine, and are outside the Foreign Ministry's scope. With respect to the agreement's signatories' reactions to the election, we do not see what you would call clear official attempts on Russia's part to use the situation in Crimea to its advantage. The United States has deemed Ukraine's stance on this matter balanced, and has warned Russia against actions which could destabilize the region.... Parliament's decision to lift its conditions for the ratification of the START I agreement and the Lisbon agreement should finally dispel any doubt: Ukraine remains firm on the path of nuclear disarmament and in its resolve to fulfill its international commitments, including the tripartite agreement.

[Poch] CIA Director Woolsey has said that it is possible that Ukraine will fragment over the next two years. Crimea and the Donbass want at least greater integration with Russia. Western Ukraine does not. What is the government's policy to prevent Ukraine's disintegration?

[Zlenko] The danger of separatism must in no event be underestimated.... We are aware of the economic, cultural, and social differences which history has created in Ukraine's various regions. Some irresponsible politicians, who, using the economic problems, are repeatedly inspiring separatist ideas, are trying to exploit them. However, even taking into account the enormous difficulties existing in Ukraine today, I cannot agree with the assertion that our state is on the verge of disintegration.... Ukraine is one of the CIS' most stable states, where the ethnic minorities' rights are respected.

[Poch] Russian nationalism, which is growing, is breaking you up. Why do you not acknowledge that economic and military reintegration with Russia is vital for Ukraine?

[Zlenko] We deem it a priority to develop good-neighborly relations with Russia.... Far from rejecting economic relations with Moscow and the CIS, we wish to bring them to a new qualitative level. As far as military union is concerned, Ukraine's stance was laid down in the declaration of sovereignty, which says that we are a neutral state.

Views Serbia Embargo, Ties With Spain

PM1002122694 Madrid ABC in Spanish 8 Feb 94 p 30

[Interview with Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko by Enrique Serbeto in Kiev; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Serbeto] How do you believe Ukraine is viewed from Spain?

[Zlenko] Well, we have no pending problem with Spain. I believe that we are on very good terms. Spain's embassy is working very well in Kiev, and we are considering setting up our embassy in Madrid, and this will be one of the topics of conversation [during Zlenko's visit to Spain], since we hope to do so in the course of this year. We have many joint enterprises which are making their way in trade, and we hope that this process will be accelerated with the treaty of friendship and cooperation which we will sign and with President Leonid Kravchuk's visit, for which we will also be preparing during these days. Ukraine has been independent for two years, and has already established relations with many countries, including Spain. Now it is necessary to begin with the legal basis of our relationship, and this treaty represents a very real step toward our relations' embodiment in law.

[Serbeto] One of things which link Spain and Ukraine is that both countries are keeping troops in the former Yugoslavia. What is Kiev's stance on the possibility of a decision to launch air strikes in Bosnia in order to support the Blue Helmets' work?

[Zlenko] Ukraine believes that all possibilities of a negotiated solution should be sought, and through an overall view. It seems to us that the embargo against Serbia and Montenegro is creating a terrible situation in which only the children, who have no medicines, and the civilians, who are now beginning to have problems in feeding themselves, are suffering. I believe that this is creating bitterness and very great resentment among people who could believe that they now have nothing to lose, and so we would be fostering an uncontrolled reaction which could go beyond the Balkans and perhaps extend throughout Europe. I therefore believe that we should study the possibility of scaling down the blockade in return for being able to extend the humanitarian action to Serbia as well. People who do not eat and are desperate are capable of anything.

[Serbeto] Would Ukraine withdraw its troops if the United Nations had recourse to retaliation by air?

[Zlenko] Spain contributes 1,200 troops to the UN peacekeeping forces, who are on the spot like the Ukrainian troops. We do not want an escalation or an internationalization of the conflict, because our troops and the Spanish troops would become hostages of this situation.

MP Claims START Ratification Resolution Falsified

LD0902223794 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Officials from Ukraine's leadership circles have falsified the Ukrainian Supreme Council's resolution of 3 February 1994 [ratifying the START I Treaty]. This was a statement made by People's Deputy of Ukraine Serhiy Holovatyy at a news conference held in Kiev. [passage omitted]

[Begin Holovatyy recording] My opinion is that officials from Ukraine's leadership circles have falsified the Ukrainian Supreme Council's resolution of 3 February 1994 [ratifying the START I Treaty]. These actions fall within those provided by the Criminal Code of Ukraine with regard to the crime under the name of falsification when in civil service.

The matter here is this. The initial version of Paragraph 2 of the draft of this resolution submitted by the Ukrainian president, was as follows: The Government of Ukraine will be instructed to exchange the ratification certificates relating to the START Treaty.

During the discussion of this paragraph, I put forward an amendment, the essence of which was as follows: The sentence in the president's draft is to be augmented as follows: And to this end the government will step up its activity to conclude specific international agreements that follow from the reservations in the Supreme Council's resolution on the ratification of the START I Treaty [the resolution in question now is the original one of 18 November 1993].

The second paragraph of the resolution, with my amendment in it, was put to the vote and adopted.

However, the official text of the Supreme Council's resolution, printed in government newspapers, offers a different version. It reads as follows: The Government of Ukraine will be instructed to exchange the certificates on the ratification of the START Treaty and will step up its activity to conclude specific international agreements that follow from the reservations in the Ukrainian Supreme Council's resolution on the ratification of the START I Treaty.

The words—to this end—have been excluded from my amendment. I regard this as a correction that has essentially altered the text of the decision, rather than linguistically correcting or editing it. This is because the three words—to this end—and the sentence, or the decision, in Paragraph 2 with these three words, envisage that the sequence of the government's actions relating to the START I will be as follows: First, concluding international agreements that follow from the resolution of 18 November [1993]—when putting forward this amendment, in particular, I primarily had in mind security guarantees—and then exchanging the ratification certificates.

The falsified text lacks this sequence. The conjunction—and—enabled the government to make a statement that Ukraine had lifted all reservations concerning the START I Treaty and, accordingly, security guarantees. So, I cannot interpret the lack of correspondence between the text of the shorthand record and the text of the official document published in the press, as anything other than a crime when in public service. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Minister Denies Increased Tensions With Russia

LD0902155894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1442 GMT 9 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Zhirnikhin]

[Text] Budapest February 9 TASS—Hungary and Ukraine have the same view as to the essence and key elements of the NATO Partnership for Peace programme, Ukrainian Defence Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy said upon the completion of today's talks with Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky in Budapest. After Ukraine signs in Brussels a document about joining the NATO programme, it intends "to put its possibilities into practice as soon as possible", he noted.

Answering questions from journalists, Radetskyy flatly dismissed assertions about increasing tensions between

Russia and Ukraine. "Quite the contrary, now we are solving the problems which have long complicated relations between Kiev and Moscow, at least military technical aspects of these problems", the minister stressed.

When asked about the Crimean leaders' aspirations for a greater autonomy, Radetskyy assessed the current situation on the peninsula as "a normal and sound process". "The Crimea is part of Ukraine, therefore one can speak only about an autonomy stipulated by Ukraine's Constitution and laws and subordinate to them... This issue should not give rise to any problems or illusions", the minister emphasised.

Radetskyy also told reporters that during the talks with Jeszenszky, the two ministers came to the conclusion that "all existing problems should be solved by means of a calm and well-considered dialogue". The Ukrainian defence minister believes that all problems are eventually rooted in economic conditions. It is the economy that determines a country's policy, inter-state relations and public order on the whole, Radetskyy noted.

Russia, Ukraine Discuss Nonnuclear Status

LD0902193794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1849 GMT 9 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yefim Shvartsman]

[Text] Kiev February 9 TASS—Russia's and Ukraine's governmental delegations met in Kiev for two-day talks to discuss measures aimed at implementation of the agreements on Ukraine's non-nuclear status reached by the presidents of Russia, Ukraine and the United States.

The bilateral meeting, which ended tonight, "was of a constructive and goodwill character, and demonstrated that the two sides were committed to search for a solution to complicated problems pertaining to Ukraine's acquiring a non-nuclear status", said Georgy Kosykh, a spokesman for the Ukrainian president and government.

The delegations to the talks were headed by Russian Ambassador at Large Yuriy Dubinin and Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Valery Shmarov.

Upon the completion of the meeting, the Russian delegation left for Moscow.

Cooperation With U.S. Committee To Continue

WS1002091894 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Yesterday, at the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, a meeting with a U.S. Government committee which supervises the Supremacy of the Law program was held. An agreement on further cooperation in various legal issues was reached, in particular, concerning regulation of external economic activities.

Ukraine, Croatia Sign Accord on Visa Procedures

LD0902202294 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1550 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Kiev, 9 Feb—An agreement between Ukraine and Croatia on a visa-free entry procedure has been signed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "In essence, Croatia and Ukraine were one state 80 years ago, noted Onesin Cvitan, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Croatia to Ukraine. "Friendly links connected our countries during the time of Soviet power. I hope that Ukrainian-Croatian cooperation will grow stronger and reach a qualitatively new level by the end of the 20th Century." Valentyn Lipatov, deputy minister of foreign affairs of Ukraine, who took part in the signing of the document from the Ukrainian side, supported this opinion too. He emphasized: "The agreement between our countries on a visa-free entry procedure extends the possibilities of Ukrainian-Croatian cooperation in the area of trade links, exchanges of tourist delegations, and so on."

The ceremonial opening of Croatia's embassy and trade mission in Ukraine will take place in Kiev today.

Border Cooperation Agreement Signed With Poland

WS0902211494 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Report by Plaksyuk from Lvov]

[Text] Today in Lvov, a declaration was signed by members of the Joint Polish-Ukrainian Commission for Border Cooperation. Zamosc Vice Voivoda Bohdan Kowalko, leader and coordinator of the commission, delivered a speech.

[Begin Kowalko recording, in Polish fading into Ukrainian translation] The agreements which were signed demonstrate the striving of the two parties to achieve better mutual understanding and foster cooperation between two good, old neighbors. All the participants in the negotiations could speak out on the issue and could propose ways of resolving disputable issues on a mutually advantageous basis. We have reached a consensus on these issues, at least for the coming two years. [end recording]

The declaration reads: The parties to the declaration find it to be a stable form of cooperation between the local Ukrainian and Polish administration of the border regions. Cooperation on border issues should include the active participation of representatives of these border regions in the formulation of state policy in the sphere of border cooperation and the promotion of cooperation between small and medium-sized enterprises, between local and regional trade-industrial chambers, etc. In addition, the 1994-95 program of work on the Joint Polish-Ukrainian Commission for Border Cooperation was drafted. Next, participants in the meeting issued a statement in which they address the Polish and Ukrainian Governments and hold out hopes for the rapid resolution of the issue of putting the Khyrov-Kroscienko customs checkpoint into operation and the speeding up of construction of an international railway and motor vehicle checkpoint at Yagodin-Dorohusk. The operation of these checkpoints will enable citizens of the bordering mountainous regions [words indistinct] to develop bilateral cooperation.

Deal Reached With French-British Space Company

WS1002115394 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] The National Space Agency of Ukraine has reached an agreement with the well-known European company Matra-Marconi Space on the latter's participation in the satellite program Lebid. The European Community has allocated $400,000 for its development. Such well-known Ukrainian enterprises and institutes as Dnipropetrovsk's Pivdenmash, Kiev's Kvant and Saturn, and Symferopol's Musson have also been included in the program. It is expected that, through the cooperation of the French, British, and Ukrainian firms, a communications satellite will be sent into geostationary orbit in 1997, most probably from the Baykonur launch facility. This was reported today by the national Space Agency of Ukraine.

National Affairs

Crimea's Meshkov Departs on Moscow Visit

LD0902225594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2018 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Yuriy Meshkov, the recently elected president of the Ukrainian autonomous republic of Crimea, on Wednesday [9 February] left for a visit to Moscow, a source in his staff said.

Meshkov will discuss with the Russian leadership the possibility of closer economic cooperation between Crimea and Russia, the source told Interfax.

At the same time, no sources in the Russian parliament, the Russian Foreign Ministry or Ukraine's embassy in Moscow have been able to confirm this information.

Agriculture Industry Granted 6 Trillion Karbovantsi Credit

LD0902233594 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2110 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Kiev, 9 Feb—As UNIAN has reported, Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers has decided to allocate government credit for the financial stabilization of the economy. Addressed or targeted assistance to individual sectors has the purpose of unblocking monetary flows restrained by the crisis of non-payments, which have dangerously exacerbated in the last month.

A UNIAN correspondent has learned from sources close to Ukraine's Finance Ministry that the total value of government financial stabilization credit comes to 6 trillion karbovantsi. A government official, who wished to remain anonymous, informed the UNIAN correspondent that the value of the credit was shared out in the following way: Five trillion karbovantsi was issued to Ukraine's National Bank at an annual interest rate of 240 percent, and 1 trillion karbovantsi to agricultural producers at 30 percent. These funds were transferred via Ukraine's National Bank on 5 and 9 February.

According to preliminary data, credit of 5 trillion karbovantsi has been addressed to the State Committee for Material Reserves, the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Machine-Building, Military-Industrial Complex and Conversion, the Ministry of Power and Electrification, the State Committee for the Food Industry, and oblast trade directorates. The Ahrokhim [?state concern for agricultural chemical industry] and state concern for material supply and service in the agrarian-industrial complex will share 1 trillion karbovantsi between them to conduct the sowing campaign (for protecting plants and purchasing spare parts and fuel).

A government cable signed by Ukraine's Acting Prime Minister Yukhym Zvyahilskyy, and Viktor Yushchenko, chairman of the board of Ukraine's National Bank, was received at oblast directorates of the National Bank, commercial banks, ministries, and departments on 9 February. The cable obliges the Prominvestbank [Ukrainian State Commercial Construction Industry Bank], the "Ukrayina" agro-industrial bank [the Republican Joint-Stock Commercial Agro- Industrial Bank] and the Ukrsotsbank [Ukrainian Joint-Stock Commercial Bank of Social Development] to open a specialized account numbered 122 "Government credit for the financial stabilization of the economy" for the relevant ministries. In accordance with this cable, the ministries are to determine a set of enterprises and make settlements for electric power, fuel and energy resources, mineral fertilizers, agricultural technology and spare parts for it, and settlements with the railways, as fully as possible from the credit.

The cable from the Cabinet of Ministers and Ukraine's National Bank has categorically banned the payment of debts to commercial structures, and joint and other enterprises with a non-state form of ownership from the credit. The heads of the government and bank stressed that financial assistance is not being granted to enterprises with surplus currency. On 26 February, commercial banks are obliged to direct the free surplus funds received from the government credit to the payment of contributions to the pension fund and budget to begin with, and only then to satisfying other current needs of enterprises. Commercial banks are also banned from using the surplus funds as credit resources.

Minister Reveals Electricity Industry 'Unprofitable'

AU0902142194 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 8 Feb 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The First Bankrupt Industry"]

[Text] V. Semenyuk, Ukraine's minister of power engineering and electrification, has stated that since January 1994 the industry has become unprofitable: The debit balance constitutes 2.3 trillion karbovantsi [K] and the overall debt about K6 trillion.

Power engineers have no money to pay for the energy sources and for the electricity supplied by nuclear power stations. For that reason, incidentally, four power units, producing millions [of kilowatts] will be closed down.

Every day, between 40 and 45 power units at thermal electric power stations are standing idle. The inability to pay has paralyzed the operation of about 2,000 enterprises in this sector.

The minister appealed to heads of oblast state administrations and to heads of councils of people's deputies with a request to provide maximum assistance to local power engineering enterprises. The enterprises and organizations must both repay debts for the electricity consumed and strictly adhere to the rules of electricity consumption.

Tula Region Conference on Chernobyl Aftermath

LD0802173094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1408 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Rudenko]

[Text] Tula February 8 TASS—The aftermath of the Chernobyl catastrophe is not so black as it is believed. This was a statistically substantiated conclusion made at a science and practical conference, which took place in the Plavskiy district of the Tula region on Tuesday. The conference was held with participation of experts of the Moscow-based Academy of Medical Sciences.

Although the Plavskiy district got the most significant portion of the radioactive pollution in the Tula region, not a single case of acute radioactive exposure was registered, according to the statistics.

Moreover, according to the data on the regional spread of various diseases, the situation in the district is even safer than average in the region and in the districts with a good record in this respect. There are fewer cases of child mortality, diseases of the endocrine system and congenital anomalities among its population.

However, the fact that inhabitants have come to apply to the hospitals for medical assistance more rarely over the last few years, casts a shadow of doubt over the reliability of the statistics.

According to Yelena Kuznetsova, who works for the Regional Committee for Environmental Protection, which studies the problems of the Chernobyl aftermath, the statistics must be treated cautiously, whereas the fact that the inhabitants of the district neglect medical services causes serious concern.

Politicians Express Attitudes on Trilateral Accord

PM0902145794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Feb 94 First Edition p 6

[Own correspondent Boris Sverdlov report: "Ukraine: Deputy Khmara Does Not Want To Give Up the Nuclear Bomb"]

[Text] Kiev—The election campaign is gathering momentum in Ukraine. An average of five or six candidates per Supreme Council seat has already been registered in many electoral districts. The leaders of parties and movements are not stinting on interviews in the mass media, are proposing various scenarios for emerging from economic collapse, and are analyzing the present blunders in detail.

But everyone is expressing his attitude toward the recent agreement on nuclear-free status for Ukraine. Some are unconditionally supporting L. Kravchuk, while others are accusing him of betraying national interests.

The latter people mostly represent national-radical parties. Judging by their speeches, you get the impression that they missed the press conference by the foreign minister and defense minister, which has been repeatedly shown on republic television. At the press conference the department heads explained in detail that implementation of the agreement entirely accords with the state's interests, that Russia and the United States have given Ukraine clear national security guarantees, and that machinery for immediate compensation for each nuclear missile that is removed has been enumerated.

A recent speech by Stepan Khmara stands out. Accusing the United States and Russia of imperial ways, he painted a black picture of the "humiliating agreement" signed by Leonid Kravchuk, who, according to him, should be immediately relieved of the presidency. He called on parliament to block the "adventure by the head of state."

At the present stage the sharp attacks by opponents of the agreement pursue a single aim—to influence the course of parliament's discussion of nuclear status.

The "New Ukraine," Ukrainian Civic Congress, and Slavic Unity Party movements have spoken out against the wholesale criticism of the president....

Former Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma declared that in Ukraine there are many "patriotic" politicians who were at first all in favor of nuclear-free status, but now are campaigning equally insistently on the other side. When were they being sincere?

Nevertheless, most observers are hopefully awaiting the discussion of the agreement between the three presidents in the Supreme Council. In their view, only a positive result will enable the young state to strengthen its independence and stabilize the economy with the help of long-term large-scale credits.

Rukh Urges Election Turnout Against Communists

WS0902211294 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 4 Feb 94 p 2

[Appeal by Levko Lukyanenko, cochairman of the Preelectoral Democratic Union of Ukraine, adopted on 28 January]

[Text] Ukrainian people! You are free people and should act like free people! Realize the current situation and act—go and vote!

You are at a crossroads on the path toward your national prosperity. On 27 March, you will be able to give direction to the development of Ukraine by doing one of two things: Either you will elect new people and we will choose a different path of development, or you will elect old bureaucrats and we will follow the old path. So, do you want life to go on the way it is? If you do not, change it! You can do it!

For 70 years you were taught that you were subordinated to the Soviet state; for 70 years you were instructed to work while the Communist Party was to think for you.

All-pervasive and continual propaganda and harsh repressions made you see your native Ukrainian land as a place of temporary residence; they tried to replace your motherland—its ancient culture and the graves of your ancestors—with communist Soviet power.

You were taken away from your native soil, they killed in you the feeling of rightful owner; they killed your national pride and implanted the inferiority complex that belongs to a person between a Ukrainian and a stateless Soviet citizen. They killed the feeling of dignity and importance in you and taught you to feel like a miserable creature in an enormous working conglomerate of people. In this working conglomerate, a person is only a cog in a huge state mechanism, the task of which is to strengthen the communist state and expand the power of Moscow across the whole globe.

This lie was encouraged by the system of total control over people's minds and behavior. Having taken away your economic freedom, your chances of merely surviving depended on the attitude of kolkhoz and factory managers to you. You had to debase yourself, and this is how you lost your personal dignity. You were financially dependent on the state and became a slave.

Over the lengthy years of harsh dictatorship, you became convinced that the communist authorities could do anything they wanted, and you could not oppose them. Before the elections, the authorities used to select subservient people and announce beforehand the number of communists, komsomol members, and nonparty members. They decided the percentage of men and women, industrial and agricultural workers, and officials—including the level of their education and their nationality—that were to be elected to the Supreme Soviet. You did not have any choice. You could not refuse to vote, because you risked your safe social status. Over this lengthy period, you used to think that the state does not depend on you and is beyond your control, while you were an appendage and cheap slave labor.

Times have changed.

Ukraine has become a democratic state. We have acquired freedom of speech, we can engage in political and social activities and rallies, and we have the opportunity to nominate any number of candidates in one constituency. State decrees are no longer formulated in the Central Party Committee but in the Supreme Council. While the lawmaking process used to be conducted behind closed doors, all Ukraine now follows the course of deputies drafting laws.

Since a civilized society develops in accordance with the laws formulated by the legislature, we can change the laws and thus change the nature and direction of our state's development.

The Supreme Council changes laws according to the demands of various deputy factions. Under democratic laws, politicians operate in full view of their voters, and the voters know their viewpoints. This is a good opportunity to alter the development of the state by electing people who supporting one political line, and at the same time not electing people who have the opposite political viewpoints.

Therefore, Ukrainian people can halt the fall in production, inflation, the collapse of the state, and the drop in living standards by dismissing the present communist authorities and electing new, progressive people.

You can see that just one vote can decide the destiny of a draft law, even if there are more than 300 deputies present in the session hall. Hence, the choice of a single family, a single voter, can determine whether a supporter of the old regime or a reformer is elected in a constituency of 86,000 people.

Esteemed voter, take advantage of 27 March and use your vote to deprive the communists of their power and entrust the patriots to raise Ukraine from the ruins!

You are not a slave. The democratic independence of Ukraine has made you a citizen with full rights. Along with your rights, democracy has endowed you with the responsibility for your own destiny and the destiny of Ukraine.

Straighten your backs, raise up your heads, and use your power to create a better Supreme Council.

Your choice affects not only the destiny of Ukraine, but the destiny of the neighboring states. The entire world is watching you. If you do not follow the path of reform and democracy and if you ruin your economy, you will fall into the trap of the Russian imperialists who will revive the old empire. Then, the hopes of Lithuanians, Tatars, and Georgians—the hopes of all the enslaved people of the former Union—will die. We will lose our freedom; a cold war with the West will begin; this will lead to real war and the death of European Christian civilization along with Ukraine!

So show the world that you abandon Moscow's slavery and are open to wider contacts with the West by developing democracy and the implementation of reform.

Remember: God gave us a beautiful land, air, and sky. To enjoy these blessings, you must resolve our economic issues. Experience has shown that the old guard cannot implement these ideas, so send new people to the Supreme Council.

Do not ask for a better life! Improve it yourself!

You have to make a choice on 27 March. Make a choice in favor of reform.

Go! Choose! Change!

Open up a new life for a new and independent Ukraine.

Liberal Head Views Elections, Zhirinovskiy

WS1002111994 Donetsk DONBASS in Russian 26 Jan 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Liberals Support Reforms"]

[Text] I.P. Markulov, chairman of the Liberal Party of Ukraine [LPU], has held a news conference in Donetsk. Since the party's position is generally well known to the electorate, Markulov dealt chiefly with answering questions. The LPU is not going to form any electoral bloc because a political bloc with some other force, he said, will result in nothing but the neutralization of both forces. Personally, I will not put myself forward on the electoral list, Markulov stressed. This was what the party decided. A leader should concentrate on giving the greatest possible support to his candidates.

One of the questions concerned the fulfillment of the protocol agreement between the LPU and the Donetsk strike committee. Here it was said that the coal lobby in the government does not want to sign a contract with the World Bank because of its condition that the coal industry be restructured. According to the LPU leader, if unprofitable mines continue to operate at the expense of profitable ones, the money allotted by the Bank may go into a black hole.

It was also stated that the LPU has broad links with the Liberal International; however, the LPU domestic policy should not overstep state borders. The party does not receive, and has not received, any money from the West, in other words, the party does not rely on overseas funds.

According to Markulov, the battle today is not between political parties, but between those who want to preserve socialism on one hand, and those who fight for radical reforms on the other. Another question concerned the LPU attitude toward Zhirinovskiy's party. The LPU chairman stated, among other things, that Zhirinovskiy's style and methods are unacceptable. To declare oneself a liberal and to pursue an extremist policy are incompatible things.

The main thrust of the LPU is to support private ownership, while its economic policy is socially oriented. The party believes that Ukraine needs a presidential form of rule. Political fighting among certain individuals should not obscure the country's strategic line of development, in other words, the country's disintegration and interregional conflicts must be prevented.

Answering a number of other questions about the upcoming parliamentary elections, the LPU chairman stated that the new parliament should consist of new people.

Belarus

Strike Set for 15 Feb; Interim Cabinet Discussed

MK1002113094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 10 Feb 94 p 5

[Valentin Zhdanko report under the "Belarus" rubric: "Many Parties Back General Political Strike. Its Organizers Discuss Transition Government Composition"]

[Excerpts] The initiative by strike committees and independent trade unions on holding a general political strike scheduled to start on 15 February has already been supported by many official trade unions, as well as by eight political parties of national- democratic orientation. The country's biggest opposition force—the Belarus People's Front—promises to assist actively in the organization and holding of the strike. [passage omitted]

A joint meeting of representatives of the political parties, movements, and trade unions that will take part in the strike discussed the question of the composition of a transition period government under whose control, according to the organizers' plans, early elections should be held. Gennadiy Karpenko, leader of the Party of National Accord and mayor of the city of Molodechno, was nominated for the position of head of a coalition cabinet of ministers—a candidature to the liking of the majority of forces supporting the political strike. He was nominated in the recent elections for the post of parliament speaker but declined to take part in campaigning for the seat. [passage omitted]

Troops Reported on Combat Alert

WS1002144394 Minsk BELAPAN in Russian 1257 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] A BELAPAN correspondent reported from the Republican Council of Strike Committees, preparations to stage a political strike are continuing. The strike will begin at 0900 GMT, on 15 February. The Council received information that the Belarusian Defense Ministry ordered military exercises for that same date. In this connection, the Interior Affairs Ministry forces were put on combat alert. The Council members believe that the Cabinet of Ministers is considering harsh actions against participants in the political strike.

Kebich: Monetary Merger No Threat to Belarus

LD0902224294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1958 GMT 9 Feb 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 27]

[Text] Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich said his Russian counterpart Viktor Chernomyrdin "will arrive in Minsk no later than next week." Kebich pointed out that "there should be no question of the exchange rate of the Belarusian and Russian currencies until the interstate agreement is signed."

The rate of exchange of Belarusian rubles and the timeliness of the changeover are the main issues for the two countries' expert groups to solve, according to the Belarusian prime minister.

The forthcoming signing of the Russo-Belarusian agreement to merge the two countries' monetary systems "is of no threat to the sovereignty of Belarus," Kebich told a meeting of industrialists in Minsk on Tuesday.

Speaking on the launch of an indefinite political strike in Belarus, which independent unions scheduled for February 15, the prime minister described this action as "an attempt to disrupt the signing of the vital documents on the unification of the monetary systems of Russia and Belarus."

Meanwhile, according to Russian Economics Minister Aleksandr Shokhin, the development of the mechanisms aimed at unifying the two countries' monetary systems is likely to be completed by the end of February. After this we shall be able to develop our own approach to the problem, said Shokhin. He believes that the unification of the monetary systems is only possible if the two countries' national interests are taken into account.

Sources close to the Russian Cabinet have told Interfax that Moscow links the possibility of the arrival in Minsk of a Russian delegation to finalize the monetary-union talks to the completion of the work by experts on the problem.

A representative of the Russian delegation which recently returned from Minsk has told Interfax that the Russian side suggested at the talks the exchange of rubles for belarusian national coupons in line with the non-cash rate of 1:3, and in cash 1:1. Belarus insists on the exchange of both cash and non-cash money at a rate of 1:1.

The chairman of the Duma subcommittee for credit and monetary policies, former Russian finance minister Boris Fedorov believes that Russia's benefits from the two systems unification are doubtful. If there are any, these are political benefits, he said.

In an interview with Interfax, Fedorov said that Belarus, which practically had yet to carry out any free market reforms and which is now in an energy crisis with an inflation rate of 45% over the past two months, is, no doubt, interested in receiving the more stable Russian currency. But what is Russia's benefit, I do not understand, he said.

Fedorov believes that after he stepped down, Yegor Gaydar left and the speaker of the Belarusian parliament Stanislav Shushkevich resigned, there are no longer any forces capable of preventing the hasty unification of the two countries' monetary systems. He also believes it necessary to investigate the possible consequences of the unification for Russia and to discuss the problem at the Duma's planning and budgetary committee.

Kebich, Industrialists Discuss Merger

LD0902192394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1140 GMT 9 Feb 94

[By BELINFORM correspondent Viktor Sakhankov for TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 9 Feb—A meeting took place today between Belarusian Prime Minister Vyachaslaw Kebich and the republic's industrialists. The prime minister acquinted the industrialists with the protocol of the expert commission for the merger of the monetary systems of Belarus and Russia. The prime minister said that the statements by opponents of this action, in which it is alleged that it runs counter to the republic's interests, are unfounded. When the appropriate agreements between the heads of the two governments are signed, Belarus will receive fuels at prices which are identical to those paid by Russian consumers. There will be no need for customs barriers and duties.

In the course of the three months after signing the agreements, the changeover to payments of wages of those employed in the budget-funded sphere in accordance with a single wage network will be enacted in Belarus. It is intended to carry out settlements between the banks of Belarus and Russia via correspondent accounts, opened by commercial banks with one another, or via accounts of the National bank of Belarus and the Russian Central Bank. The protocol provides for a number of jointly elaborated mechanisms and procedures for their implementation during the difficult process of fully merging the two states' monetary systems.

Mrs. Clinton Said To Give Hospital Old Drugs

PM0902175194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Feb 94 p 2

[Oleg Stepanenko report: "A 'Tainted' Greeting from the U.S. President"]

[Text] The number four children's hospital in Minsk, which received a visit from Mrs. Hilary Clinton, rejoiced at a gift of drugs—prostafilin—that it received from her, but the celebrations were short-lived. It seems that the these antibiotics had passed their use-by date back in 1992. The doctors were afraid to give children medicine that was not absolutely fresh. They decided to "pass up" the gift from the U.S. President's wife and send it to a hospital for adults instead.

Council Allegedly Requests Ban on Popular Front

WS0902211394 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1600 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Belarusian Popular Front [BNF] Secretary Viktar Ivashkevich has told a BELAPAN correspondent that the BNF leadership has received unofficial information concerning attempts by the Council of Ministers to ban the activities of the BNF and to strip leader Zyanon Paznyak, of the legislative opposition, of his deputy powers. The opposition newspaper SVABODA reported the same in a recent issue. According to SVABODA, the Cabinet of Ministers leadership have requested that the Prosecutor's Office, KGB, and the Interior Ministry find legal grounds to ban the BNF. The Prosecutor's Office reportedly has been asked to consider the possibility of initiating criminal proceedings against Zyanon Paznyak. However, as has been pointed out by Viktar Ivashkevich, the BNF leadership thus far knows nothing about any concrete legal measures taken by law enforcement bodies.

Alternative Military Service Law Fails Second Reading

PM1002103594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Feb 94 p 1

[Valeriy Nikolayev report under "News" rubric: "Time for Alternative Service in Belarus Has Still Not Come"]

[Text] Minsk—The law "On Alternative Service" has "been unlucky" in the Belarusian parliament. It passed its first reading over a year ago. But in its second reading it did not garner the required number of votes. Recently another attempt was made to legalize alternative service.

But the deputies heeded the opinion of republic Defense Minister Colonel General Pavel Kozlovskiy, who stated that the time for this law has "still not come." The Armed Forces, he said, are experiencing a severe shortage of draftees and, if alternative service is now allowed, the situation as regards bringing the Army up to strength with soldiers and sergeants will become extremely complicated.

Unnecessary Arms Exported; Surplus at $1 Billion

PM1002110194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Feb 94 p 2

[Correspondent Valeriy Kovalev report under "In Brief" rubric: "Belarus Becomes Exporter. Admittedly, of Weapons It Does Not Need"]

[Text] Minsk—Last year Belarus took its first steps as an arms exporter. The government has made the especially formed "Beltekheksport" foreign trading organization responsible for dealing with the republic's new business. V. Tur, the enterprise's deputy general director, reported that in 1993 it sold more than $9 million of arms on the foreign market. In addition, contracts worth another $23 million were signed. According to expert estimates Belarus has surplus weapons, combat equipment, and ammunition with a total value of over $1 billion.

Trade, Investment Accord Signed With Czech Republic

WS0902165494 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1300 GMT 9 Jan 94

[Text] Vladimir Dlouhy, minister of industry and trade of the Czech Republic, and Vladimir Radkevich, head of the Belarusian Government's Foreign Trade Committee, have signed an agreement in Prague on trade and economic relations between Belarus and the Czech Republic. The document provides for the liberalization of foreign trade, settlement of hard currency payments, and direct economic links between the partners. Czech experts believe that the agreement will allow other agreements to be signed in specific areas of cooperation, such as support and protection of investments and the prevention of dual taxation.

Moldova

Snegur Sees Danger of 'Provocations' in Dniester

PM1002102194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Feb 94 First Edition p 1

[Svetlana Gamova report: "Snegur Warns: Provocations Possible in Dniester Region"]

[Text] Chisinau—The Moldovan president has made an appeal on national television to residents of the Dniester Region in which he warned of possible provocations in the region during the election period and laid responsibility for their consequences at the door of Tiraspol's leaders.

M. Snegur pointed out that the "sociopolitical situation in eastern parts of the republic has once deteriorated and the unconstitutional authorities in the Dniester Republic [as published] are constantly blocking a solution to the conflict. According to him, armed formations of the Dniester Region have been brought into the security zone, previously part of the combat zone, which is now controlled by peacekeeping forces. This is a gross violation of the agreement that the Russian and Moldovan presidents signed in 1992. He named the places where these armed detachments are based: Bendery and the outlying village of Parkany.

In Snegur's opinion, the situation is being aggravated by the special regime in force on the Left Bank along with the reinforced border and customs posts on highways and bridges across the Dniester. The Dniester Region authorities' reluctance to resolve the conflict was cited as a crucial factor. Moreover, M. Snegur does not rule out the idea that "there will be various provocations that may end in bloodshed."

The president urged the population of the Dniester Region and all people of goodwill to "influence those who want to embroil us in a bloody conflict."

Judging by the atmosphere in Tiraspol, people here are afraid that uncontrollable situations may arise, thus accounting for the introduction of a special regime in the region.

The information cited in the Moldovan president's appeal is backed up by a statement from the Moldovan delegation on the Joint Monitoring Commission [JMC], which is monitoring the security zone. The Dniester side has submitted its counterarguments to the commission. According to V. Krylov, cochairman of the JMC, who heads the Russian mission, there have been plenty of these counterstatements and they are not just confined to the above two spots—Bendery and Parkany. The facts cited are being checked out by the tripartite military command of the peacekeeping forces, and the JMC will be able to draw its conclusions on the basis of the command's report.

The Russian delegation, which is mediating in resolving the conflict, is aware of the edgy election atmosphere and the sides' desire to derive the maximum advantage from it, according to the Russian cochairman of the JMC. But the main thing today is to preserve tranquillity and the peace that has been established, creating conditions for political solutions.

Bendery Garrison Commandant A. Vostrikov noted that, according to his information, the JMC has not established that there are armed formations in the city apart from those for which the agreement makes provision.

Dniester Demands Observers To Prevent Fighting

LD0902162594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1346 GMT 9 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Denidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau February 9 TASS—The parliament of the Moldovan breakaway Dniester Republic called on the United Nations, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and heads of the CIS states to send observers for "the objective assessment of the situation".

The Tiraspol leaders consider this has become necessary due "to increasing attacks of Chisinau on the Dniester administration".

Thus the parliament fired back the Wednesday statement of Moldovan President Mircea Snegur, who accused Tiraspol of attempts to aggravate the sociopolitical situation and block the implementation of the Moscow agreement on the peaceful settlement of the conflict, signed in August 1992.

"The presence of international observers may prevent economic siege and a new military conflict in the region", the parliament statement said.

The document reiterated that the Dniester province will not take part in Moldova's parliamentary elections scheduled for February 27.

The situation is apparently hotting up in the Dniester province. "A single provocation will be enough to have a military conflict unleashed", Valeriy Prudnikov, chief of police in the Dniester town of Bendery told ITAR-TASS on Tuesday. Prudnikov complained that the Dniester leaders "stur up local population against the police", which is subordinate to Chisinau Interior Ministry.

Dniester is not the only pain in the back for Chisinau. Leaders of the self-proclaimed Gagauz Republic in the southern part of Moldova insist that the 14th Russian Army deployed in the former Soviet republic must be granted the status of peace-keeping forces.

This will prevent Chisinau's possible attempts to solve by force the problem of Moldova's two provinces—Dniester and Gagauzia, said a statement signed by Gagauz leaders.

The Army itself warned all sides against "the illusions to solve the conflict by force". The statement of the command of the 14th Army circulated on Wednesday stressed that "organizers of armed provocations from both banks (of the Dniester River) will get severe punishment for any attempt to unleash a new conflict".

The military appealed to politicians to seek for a political settlement of "all difficult but still solvable problems" basing on the Moscow accords.

Dniester's Caraman Rejects Snegur Appeal

AU0902162394 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1722 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Chisinau ROMPRES, 9/2/1994—The appeal of President Snegur to citizens of Moldova of 7 February denotes a provocation Chisinau has prepared against Tiraspol, declared to BASA Alexandru Caraman, Dniester vice-president. The appeal warns about possible new clashes and bloodshed in Dniester region. In the opinion of Caraman, "Moldovan authorities will provoke bloodshed and blame Tiraspol leaders, pretending to be doing their best to solve the Dniester conflict." He estimated that "the present leadership of Moldova does everything to recruit electors from the left bank. Asked to comment the information saying that some 40 people from the former Russian Security Ministry are engaged in Tiraspol service, Caraman said "I do not work in these organs and can neither confirm or deny such data."

Moscow Said To Acclaim Snegur's Anti-Unification Stance

AU1002122494 Bucharest COTIDIANUL in Romanian 8 Feb 94 p 8

[Irina Negrea article: "Snegur Gives Moscow Reason for Satisfaction"]

[Text] In the final period of the election campaign for parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova, the conservative, procommunist, and pro-imperial forces, which hold political and economic power in Chisinau, have intensified their attack. The recent meeting entitled "Our Home—the Republic of Moldova" fulfilled all the functions of former traditional congresses of the Communist Party by formulating "directives" and "theses" for the coming period. The anti-Romanian atmosphere of the proceedings and the anti-unification promoted by all speakers triggered lively applause in Moscow. Here is how Radio Moscow and Ostankino Television acclaimed the said congress: "The participants in the forum condemned the political forces and media opposing the state's independence and spread national feuding (...) Moldova's President Mircea Snegur delivered a profoundly substantiated speech in front of those present. The ultra-patriotic slogans supported by a number of parties and movements led to a split not only of the people of different ethnic origin, but also among the ranks of Moldovans." And at the end of the report, which apparently is not linked to what was reported before, but which actually testifies to the fact that Moscow endorses Chisinau's official stance, it is emphasized: "The same day (6 February), Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed an intergovernmental draft accord that establishes the rules and conditions for the stationing of Russian troops on the territory of Moldova." Once again this proves that Snegur's previous statements in connection with the need for the 14th Army to withdraw were false.

Even the organization of the congress (by the so-called Civic Alliance in Chisinau, a formation that was set up recently, and the Government of the Republic of Moldova) does not differ in any way from the former measures of defense and security adopted by the communists. The proceedings were attended by delegations from several countries, including from former Soviet republics; Romania was not invited. Access to the congress was very restricted. The invitations had been issued by state structures. The same procedure was also in force for most of the journalists, who, not having the authorities' approval, had to withdraw when faced by the cordons of policemen. Chisinau radio and television carried live relays of the congress, so that the citizens' indoctrination would be more effective. In practical terms, the speakers respected the electoral platform of the Agrarian Democratic Party of Moldova [PDAM] by trying, first and foremost, to slander the pro-union political forces and promoting Romania-phobia and an exaggerated, abnormal Moldovanism.

Adrian Usatai, general director of the national radio television in Moldova and leader of the Civic Alliance in Chisinau, went as far as to contest the national ideal of the country's reintegration, thus questioning—with sinister sarcasm—the supreme sacrifice accepted by Ilie Ilascu: "Mr. Ilascu, it is one thing to defend the integrity of the Republic of Moldova in Tiraspol, and another, if you state, in your cage, that Romania is your homeland. In what capacity were you there and what was the purpose of being in Tiraspol?"

Not wanting the Republic of Moldova to become "a province or domain of other countries," Dumitru Motpan, PDAM leader, supports the presidential point of view militating for an independent Republic of Moldova, eventually united with Moldavia on this side of the Prut River.

During a recent meeting with the electorate of the Cantemir Rayon, Motpan said that, after the genuine consolidation of Moldova's statehood, the PDAM "will proceed to the unification, but not with the whole of Romania, but merely with Romanian Moldavia."

Unfortunately, the agrarians are the ones who can most easily manipulate public opinion in villages, both at the 27 February 1994 elections and during the so-called sociological referendum on 6 March 1994, considering that the majority of peasants rely on the kolkhoz and sovkhoz leaders, who constantly put pressure on them due to the directives received from the "center."

Kazakhstan

Kozyrev, Nazarbayev Begin Talks on 'Tense' Problems

Working Groups Formed

LD0902165294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1548 GMT 9 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Akimov and Georgiy Shmelyov]

[Text] Almaty February 9 TASS—Delegations of the Russian and Kazakh Foreign Ministries which met for talks in Almaty on Wednesday [9 February] expressed a unanimous opinion about an entire range of problems they discussed.

In addition to agreements reached several hours ago by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and proposals expressed in a personal message by Russian President Boris Yeltsin addressed to the Kazakh president, a decision was adopted to form three working groups from each side to search for ways of resolving the most tense problems in the relations between the two countries.

Under the patronage of the two foreign ministers the working groups shall, within a month or a month and a half, to prepare a package of agreements between Russia and Kazakhstan on the basis of earlier projects, pertaining to problems of citizenship, military cooperation and the joint use of the Baykonur cosmodrome to subsequently submit these agreements for approval to heads of state in order to give them a legal character. This is expected to take place during a forthcoming summit meeting scheduled to be held no later than at the end of March, 1994.

Simultaneously, Russian foreign minister and his Kazakh counterpart Tuleutay Suleymenov agreed to step up preparations for signing other draft documents expected to promote further cooperation between the two countries. The matter primarily concerns the signing of a consular convention and a protocol on regular consultations between Russian and Kazakh Foreign Ministries. Mutual understanding was reached on the organisation of a conference of heads of Caspian states on ways of resolving problems of the Caspian Sea.

No Agreement Reached

LD1002132094 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0400 GMT 10 Feb 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Andrey Kozyrev and Nursultan Nazarbayev spent about three hours in one-on-one talks yesterday. Trustworthy sources say that an agreement was not reached on any of the subjects under discussion. For this reason, no final documents were signed. The issues obstructing relations between Russia and Kazakhstan fall into three areas.

First, there are legal issues relating to citizenship and the rights of Russians in Kazakhstan. Nazarbayev once again said no to Kozyrev's latest initiative on dual citizenship. The possibility of a compromise is being discussed.

The second issue is military-political cooperation. Kazakhstan is insisting on an economic quid pro quo for the removal of nuclear weapons.

Third, and lastly, there is Baykonur, which is still a stumbling block in relations between the two states. The plane carrying the Russian foreign minister's delegation, accompanied by Kazakh representatives, has just landed at Krayniy airport, Leninsk.

Today, Andrey Kozyrev will familiarize himself with the situation at Baykonur. The talks are proving difficult. The Kazakh side does not agree that Russia should lease the Cosmodrome for 99 years. According to some reports, Russia is being offered a lease of about 20 years. Russia's Defense Ministry regards this as completely unacceptable.

Furthermore, Kazakhstan is seeking the demilitarization of Baykonur. It does not want to entrust command over it to the Russian military authorities. Kazakhstan hopes to carry out a global commercial program at the cosmodrome. Naturally, this does not accord with Russia's strategic interests either.

Kazakhstan's latest bold condition for Russia's use of Baykonur was the proposal that, in return for a lease on the Cosmodrome, it would receive military equipment from Russia at half-price.

Finally, Kazakhstan has completely refused to recognize Baykonur and a number of test ranges as Russian military bases, something that Moscow is insisting on.

Nevertheless, we must set an example by proving that we can conduct a fruitful dialogue, as well as argue and stake claims, Andrey Kozyrev said, probably without feeling especially hopeful, judging by the Kazakh side's recent behavior.

Nazarbayev Interviewed on Ties With Russia

PM1002102794 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 9 Feb 94 p 3

[Interview with President Nursultan Nazarbayev by Ye. Dotsuk: "We Shall Not Divide Into 'Ours' and 'Theirs'; place and date not given]

[Text] [Dotsuk] Nursultan Abishevich, in a recent speech you said that 1994 will be a turning point for the better for Kazakhstan. Yet the start of the year has already been marked by soaring prices, inflation, and a decline in the tenge exchange rate. In speaking of imminent economic stabilization, what are you relying on—specific calculations and reassuring figures on the course of economic reform, or your intuition as a politician?

[Nazarbayev] I am sure that this year will be a turning point for Kazakhstan. This is no prediction caused by some flash of illumination. It is based primarily on the real advances achieved in the course of economic reforms. Despite many difficulties and stoppages and even setbacks, the reforms are proceeding and are producing tangible results. The main thing is that the structure of our economy is being restricted on the move. Last year, with an overall decline in industrial production, three-fourths of all enterprises nonetheless found a way out of the labyrinth of the crisis and ensured an increase in physical volumes...in the majority of cases, by developing new commodities: ferromanganese, arc-welded pipes, welding rods, dozens of types of equipment, chemical output, structural and construction materials, television sets, refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, and audio and video equipment. We have even begun the production of Kazakhstani automobiles, albeit only in small batches for the time being.

So, while the production of weapons—in which the Soviet Union used to trade—or other output for which there is no market is being wound down, we do not greatly regret it. We will give our attention and support to those who, working for Kazakhstan's needs, consistently restructure themselves and adapt to market conditions.

Of course, all this still does not attest to the existence of a mixed economy. But for Kazakhstan, where only yesterday the public consciousness did not even allow the idea that we could produce complex electronically based equipment for ourselves and where even people of the older generation, in contrast, for instance, to the Baltic countries, had no idea of what private ownership was, taking such a step forward in less than two years is undoubtedly an achievement.

As for inflation and a certain decline in the tenge exchange rate, we did take all that into account beforehand. It would be naive to say that we can immediately acquire a very hard currency. After all, the same thing is happening with the ruble and the currencies of the other CIS countries.

[Dotsuk] You have always said that sovereignty is not an end in itself, that the main thing is a real improvement in people's lives. Tell me, Nursultan Abishevich, have you even once regretted that the Kazakhstan Government did not agree to Russia's "constraining" terms and decided to leave the ruble zone?

[Nazarbayev] Any state signing particular interstate agreements assumes the determination of the obligations to the other side. Part of its sovereignty is thus delegated to it. Many conditions, including "constraining" ones, as you call them, can be accepted if they will bring prosperity and help to introduce new technology and so forth. If it were Japan, for instance, why should we not waive some principles for the sake of the people's welfare. But Russia itself is having a hard time right now, and it can hardly consider Kazakhstan's interests in some way. The conditions set by A. Shokhin were unacceptable to us. He openly asked us to leave the ruble zone, and we knew that this was an IMF recommendation. In brief, we have no claims against Russia. Ultimately, every state must decide its own financial problems freely and independently.

Ultimately, the CIS countries should reach a supranational currency that will circulate in the CIS. I would very much like this to take less than 30 years, as it did in West Europe.

[Dotsuk] Nursultan Abishevich, the "Russian theme" has become more acute in the Republic now....

[Nazarbayev] I will be frank: This subject is artificially being made acute.

I will immediately note that I do not accept a concept like the "Russian-speaking population." Who among us is not a Russian speaker? After all, all Kazakhstan speaks Russian, including 99 percent of Kazakhs. And if we do accept this term willy nilly, then we have to include in it representatives of the more than 100 ethnic groups living in Kazakhstan—Germans, Ukrainians, Belarusians, Greek, Koreans, Dungane.... And the context in which this term has usually been used recently in no way reflects their national interests.

They say that the Kazakh language is driving out Russian, primarily in the educational system. But is that the case? Right now, 270,000 students are studying in Russian in Kazakhstan, which is 78 percent of the total number. More than 57 percent of the schoolchildren learn only in Russian in Kazakhstan—and that is all with Kazakh as the official language in the Republic. You must realize that the relevant constitutional norm was introduced by no means as a formal sign of statehood but primarily because the language of the Kazakhs in their motherland was on the verge of disappearing. The state's duty and our human duty is to prevent that.

Before speaking of migration, let's make a small digression into the history of this question. The point is that the Kazakhs' ancient land has always received for various reasons—historical, political and social—representatives of various peoples, mainly from the European part of Russia. Since the days of Ivan the Terrible and Petr I "fugitives" appeared in our land. Later migration began to acquire the nature of Russian state policy connected with the creation of a convenient bridgehead for military and economic penetration to the East. The first mass wave of migrants included peasants from every corner of Russia—victims of land repartition, cossacks called to defend the frontiers of the empire. It was then that the "Cossack lines"—the Ural, Siberian, and Gorkiy lines passing across the Kazakhs' land—emerged. The second large wave of Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian, and Polish immigrants was caused by Stolypin's land reforms and the desire to drag our territories into this overall repartitioning. At that time nearly 2 million people moved to Kazakhstan. And finally just recently masses of volunteers poured into

Kazakhstan to develop the virgin lands and to work at the "construction sites of the century." That was in fact the third and largest stage in migration to Kazakhstan. It was then that the demographic situation which in principle has persisted to this day was determined.

Naturally, people came to us with different aims and feelings. Whereas the settlers of the first waves tried above all to attach themselves to the land and to farm, the latter came with a purely worldly aim—earning money and going back home. Naturally, for the deported peoples the desire to return home was generally foremost. But irrespective of whom cam here and how, by no means the least and perhaps even the first part in determining that Kazakhstan became their home was played by the Kazakh nation and its traditional qualities like openness, hospitality, and good-neighborliness. What, ultimately, is the crime of the Kazakhs, more than one-third of whom died during the enforced collectivization and who have remained a minority in their own motherland? Is it worth mentioning that the majority of those who came to Kazakhstan left they were the "masters of their lives" here since for them the entire Soviet Union (read—Russia) was their home. But with the enormous country's collapse many stereotypes began to change. And naturally, many people began to feel they were abroad. There was a revival of the view that their stay on our land was temporary and there was a desire to return. But has this phenomenon—which is entirely natural, given all our upheavals—become a massive and overwhelming one? I shall cite figures on this score which are by no means exhaustive. Last year, more than 200,000 Russians left Kazakhstan. That is undoubtedly a lot and was a great loss for Kazakhstan. But we must also mention something else: Migration flows in both directions have never ceased. Even in the "prosperous" 1980's, 80,000 to 100,000 people left Kazakhstan every year and slightly more came. Last year, too, nearly 160,000 Russians moved permanently to the Republic. And they were Russians! And only about 60,000 of them were from regions that, to put it mildly, are not distinguished by their stability. We must also consider that after the creation of Kazakhstan's own armed forces a large number of servicemen left Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan's army is small and officers together with their units naturally left the Republic.

But it is wrong to speak of some gigantic flow of refugees from Kazakhstan unless, of course, you are setting yourself a particular aim. There are no refugees at all, there is freedom for each person to choose his place of residence. Those are two different things. And we receive openly those who come to us. The amendments which I recently made to the law on citizenship, taking advantage of my additional powers, were indeed connected with simplifying the procedure for taking citizenship when members of the families of Kazakhstanis move to the republic, and not only for them.

Of course, I do not say that there are no problems in this matter, particularly problems connected with the tyranny of bureaucrats who, incidentally, forget their national feelings when there is extortion and bribery (a Kazakh takes money from a Kazakh, a Russian from a Russian). Russian citizens probably are also aware of this.

I am very worried by the departure of Germans. More Germans than Russians have left the republic. I understand the feelings of people seeking to return to their historical homeland, especially as the majority did not come to Kazakhstan at their own wish. But in talks with Germany's leaders I always raise questions of expanding the presence of German business in Kazakhstan. We have plenty of land. You only have to work, to raise children, to make your family's life a prosperous one. And do you need dual citizenship under these conditions? You ask what danger it presents to Kazakhstan. It does not present a danger to the Kazakhs! You cannot split the multinational Kazakhstan society into two parts. You cannot have "ours" and "theirs."

I suggested and continue to suggest a simple and feasible way out of the situation: When he moves to Russia let a person freely acquire its citizenship. If you come to live in Kazakhstan, you acquire Kazakhstan citizenship. And even better, introduce within the CIS framework a common document enabling people to live wherever they like irrespective of citizenship. And then the question of "dual citizenship" will disappear of its own accord.

[Dotsuk] How is the situation with the CIS taking shape today? Do you believe that formation is still promising?

[Nazarbayev] I have never considered it unpromising, otherwise I would not have put forward so many initiatives for the integration, primarily the economic integration, of our states. The recent meeting in Ashgabat confirmed that the further we go in different directions the more rapidly we will feel the need to unite. It seems to me that there are enough signed documents regulating work and mutual cooperation within the CIS to see us through to the end of the century and it is now time to fill work with specific content, unraveling, albeit slowly, but nonetheless painstakingly, the knots of contradictions which emerged largely artificially over the past two years.

I do not know, perhaps someone does not like talk of a single economic area but I have long been suggesting to all neighbors that they remove all customs barriers and open up their borders. By all means, let us sign a treaty.

[Dotsuk] Previously, when the officials of two governments could not agree on particular issues, you and Yeltsin would intervene and the problems would be resolved. Recently, Yeltsin does not seem to be "playing up" to Kazakhstan very much. Should we think that your personal relations with him have cooled?

[Nazarbayev] I am surprised, although I can imagine why you reached that conclusion. Boris Nikolayevich complained that, in terms of resolving mutual economic problems unskillfully, our governments, ministries, and departments were putting us in an awkward position, and he was right. After all, how many meetings, talks, and agreements there have been. We met six times last year just to discuss the ruble zone! We still did not achieve anything. And the heads of state seemed to be guilty here. In general, the bureaucrats have not resolved anything, not even after our summit meetings, when we reached the same opinion on many issues. And the economy is starting to live increasingly by market rules and not by orders from above.

We maintain relations constantly and consult each other on a very broad range of problems. Only for some reason the press has stopped reporting that a telephone conversation has taken place between the presidents on a particular topic.

[Dotsuk] In connection with the abolition of the ruble zone can it be said that Russian-Kazakhstani relations have nonetheless become more complex?

[Nazarbayev] I would not draw that conclusion. It has already been reported that we and Russia have concluded a treaty on mutual payments in the fuel and energy complex. None of us owes anyone anything. We and Russia are equally interested in strictly observing our treaty commitments. There are also other mutual decisions—treaties are being prepared on military cooperation and joint space projects. Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin's visit to Kazakhstan was fruitful. The talks on the ruble zone belong to yesterday.

[Dotsuk] A few words about Russian-Kazakh relations in the sphere of military cooperation. The situation is obvious: Unless Kazakhstan and Russia sign a treaty on military-political cooperation and documents on the joint use of former strategic projects, both sides will lose out—Russia is deprived of bases for scientific and military tests and for Kazakhstan these test ranges become a heavy burden since the republic cannot cope with them alone. Is Kazakhstan prepared for serious compromise steps to preserve existing unique military-technical complexes?

[Nazarbayev] Compromise presupposes mutual concessions, not unilateral ones. Kazakhstan has always stated its readiness to resolve all problems with Russia on mutually advantageous terms.

Of course, the military complexes that have been created have an enormous scientific and technical potential. And we shall preserve it—on an equal basis with Russia or independently. But here we must consider that the Baykonur test ranges and cosmodrome in Kazakhstan occupy enormous territories. Approximately as much territory as the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, and the former GDR taken together—over 13 million hectares of land artificially removed from economic circulation. In addition the military regularly occupied a further 3.5 million hectares of agricultural land for their experiments. And one can understand people's attitude toward these mostly lethal establishments. We know that the fuel for the "Proton" booster rocket contains a highly toxic component like heptyl, which is in the top danger category. So after launching, the missile's separated stages with this heptyl simply fall from the sky onto the ground and are no birthday present to the local inhabitants. We must calculate the size of the territories polluted by this poison.

[Dotsuk] Are you not troubled that when Clinton came to the CIS he met with all the "nuclear" presidents except the Kazakhstan president?

[Nazarbayev] My talks with Clinton lie ahead. IN the very near future I am to make an official visit to the United States at the U.S. President's invitation. And I am not troubled by this fact for the simple reason that I had a thorough discussion of questions of nuclear arms in the CIS with Albert Gore during his visit to Kazakhstan. We also talked of the subject of William Clinton's talks in Moscow. In addition back in December last year our parliament ratified the decision to accede to the nuclear nonproliferation treaty without outside pressure. And it was these problems that the U.S. President was discussing with Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus. There was no need for Kazakhstan to attend.

In conclusion, I want to wish all Russians and KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA readers and journalists happiness, prosperity, and health. I would like you always to be objective and to describe in a balanced and well-intentioned way how people are living throughout the world, including in our country—the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Implications of Dual Citizenship Examined

MK0902130094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Feb 94 p 3

[Report by Sergey Kozlov under the "Kazakhstan" rubric: "Almaty Opposes Dual Citizenship, But This Does Not Rule Out Further Negotiations"]

[Excerpts] Polemics about the question of dual citizenship in Kazakhstan have evolved into a fierce political argument. [passage omitted]

Have the Kazakhstani leaders adjusted their stance on the eve of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Almaty? "No, they have not," said state counselor Tulegen Zhukeyev, who in fact shapes Kazakhstan's foreign policy. "Our policy remains unchanged. If the Russian side wants to discuss the subject, we will continue the dialogue. But I do not think it will reveal anything completely new."

As for "minor" details concerning the issue, Kazakhstani Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko unexpectedly spoke up on the matter during his trip around the republic's eastern oblasts. In his words, a treaty with Moscow is being drawn up whereby every Kazakhstani citizen, if he or she so wishes, will have the possibility of obtaining Russian citizenship in Moscow under a special procedure that will be simplified as much as possible.

This information was confirmed for your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent at the information-analytical center of the Kazakhstani president's staff. "I do not think that the question of citizenship is a cornerstone in Russian-Kazakhstani relations," Marat Tazhin, the center chief, believes. "To all appearances, a solution will be found in the form of a 'postponed' or 'dozing' ['dremlyushchiy'] citizenship; at least our president has repeatedly said that he wants the problem resolved in this particular fashion."

According to Marat Tazhin, the procedure for obtaining Russian citizenship may boil down to a simple registration for ethnic Russians, and for other persons wishing to move to Russia the acquisition of citizenship would last no longer than three months. "But all this, of course, will be settled at the upcoming talks and in the course of concluding treaties," the chief of the presidential staff's information-analytical center said. [passage omitted]

"References to Turkmenistan or Kyrgyzstan in this case are inappropriate," thinks Sabit Zhusupov, a sociologist and the center's leading analyst. "We have an entirely different situation in Kazakhstan. If we agree that dual citizenship is really needed, around 60 percent of the state's population will turn out to be foreign citizens." Sabit Zhusupov also believes that the problem can be resolved completely by concluding bilateral agreements that would specify the rights of the two countries' citizens and simplify a procedure for changing citizenship. "But for the most part these matters are of interest for politicians," Sabit Zhusupov claims, "and also the intelligentsia. But not for other categories of citizens."

An entirely clear view has taken shape in Kazakhstan's high echelons of power: It is Russian politicians who are trying to add a political tinge to the citizenship question with an evident purpose of expanding Russia's sphere of influence into Central Asia and making Russophones a sort of "force field" to influence local governments. [passage omitted]

Nazarbayev To Sign 'Comprehensive' Treaty in U.S.

LD0902224494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1958 GMT 9 Feb 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 27]

[Text] In the course of his official visit to the U.S. on February 13-17 President Nursultan Nazarbayev will sign a long-term comprehensive cooperation treaty with that country, Kazakh Foreign Minister Tuleutay Suleymenov said at a news conference in Almaty. Nazarbayev will also brief the U.S. president on Kazakhstan's joining the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Suleymenov added that Britain and Russia would be notified later.

According to the Minister, Nazarbayev is scheduled to meet with U.S. administration members, World Bank and International Monetary Fund managers and UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

Premier Visits Enterprises, Comments on Problems

LD0802171594 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1230 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Summary] Late last week Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko visited East Kazakhstan and Semipalatinsk Oblast.

In Leninogorsk the prime minister visited the Riddersky mine in the Obruchovskaya valley, which is a big mineral deposit of ores with gold, silver, and zinc which can be recovered in big amounts with little expenditures. Foreign firms are very interested in these deposits.

In Ust-Kamenogorsk, the prime minister familiarized himself with a new store run by the titanium and magnesium combine. This store is currently under construction and is expected to be commissioned this year. Mr. Tereshchenko examined samples of products from titanium and displayed interest in the way the combine tackles its problems in selling the products. He gave useful advice on the problem.

He also met representatives of parties and public movements of the oblast. During the conversation, the head of government stressed that the disintegration of economic ties in the former USSR influenced all spheres of life. New burdens were placed on the nation's shoulders after Kazakhstan had to opt out of the ruble zone. In order to tackle the problem, President Nazarbayev recently put forward an initiative to create a supranational currency—the altyn, from which all the republics could have benefited.

The head of government said: "We are aware how complicated the situation is. One of the reasons for this are non-payments. Enterprises of the oblast have over 1 billion tenge of debts. Main debts and counterclaims will shortly be offset. This will help to find out insolvent and loss-making enterprises which will be declared bankrupt.

"Many enterprises ask for loans and demand that power should be made cheaper. Kazakhstan will soon receive over 1 billion in foreign loans but we will not allow credit issue [sentence as received]. The money will be mainly channeled to the economy.

"Russia sells us power at virtually world prices and we should accelerate the commissioning of another power generating unit of Ekibastuz-2 which will allow us to to reduce our import of energy.

"Our agriculture is inefficient. We have much greater production costs per tonne of grain in comparison, say, with Canada. We should implement advanced technology in agriculture so as to reach a modern production level in in 5-7 years.

"We have discussed dual citizenship here. But people of over 100 nationalities live in Kazakhstan. If we pass the law on dual citizenship, what kind of situation will we have in our sovereign state? I think we have a different way out. We are preparing a treaty with Russia according to which every person who leaves Kazakhstan for the Russian Federation will obtain its citizenship, and vice versa. In order to stop specialists leaving, we are elaborating a document which envisages signing 5-7 year contracts with a better salary.

"The language policy is constantly the focus of attention of the state leadership. The president will soon speak very precisely on these issues."

Government Meets Karaganda Miners Demands

LD1002141394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1201 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Akimov]

[Text] Almaty February 10 TASS—The general strike of miners of the Karaganda coal-field, probably, will not take place, because the Kazakh Government agreed to meet the demands of the strike committee.

All Kazakh consumers have been ordered to pay debts for received fuel within a couple of weeks. National bank and a number of commercial banks will grant them certain credits for that.

Custom duties on export coal deliveries will be abolished and tariffs on deliveries within the territory of the republic will be reduced.

However, it will be very difficult to return all the debts as their sum is astronomical: Only the debt for wages in the Karagandaugol totals about 180 million tenge (approximately 16 million U.S. dollars).

Tajikistan

Parliament Head To Oversee Radio, TV Committee

LD0902161794 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan released a decree on operative supervision over the State Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan on Radio and TV. The decree notes:

Taking into account the need of inhabitants of the Republic of Tajikistan in objective and unbiased information on important political and social events in the country and abroad, and in order to improve the quality of the work of the State Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan on Radio and TV, and taking into account the great importance of radio and television in the life of the republic, as well as in order to stabilize the social and political situation as soon as possible, and in accordance with Article 109 of the Basic Law of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan decrees:

1. To entrust temporarily the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan with the task of operative supervision over the State Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan on Radio and TV.
2. To put this decree forward for approval to the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan.

[Signed] Imamali Rakhmanov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan

Uzbekistan

Russo-Uzbek Statement on Afghanistan Issued

LD0902152394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1221 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Tashkent, 9 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—"The foreign ministers of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Uzbekistan, while reiterating their countries' principled position on noninterference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, express profound concern at the new flare-up of the armed confrontation there. This development of events harms prospects for normalizing the situation in that country," says a joint statement on Afghanistan, which was issued here on 8 February by the foreign ministers of Russia and Uzbekistan.

The two countries' foreign ministries, the statement says, "call for an end to the fratricidal war in Afghanistan and urge all Afghan military-political forces to abandon their reliance on force and to embark on a joint search for political compromises, for the sake of national consolidation and reconciliation."

The statement stresses: "The sides consider that the conflict in Afghanistan, which is a result of internal contradictions in that country, threatens security and stability in the region. They are seriously concerned at the increased tension on the southern borders of the CIS.

The foreign ministers of Russia and Uzbekistan support the integrity of the Afghan state and the inviolability of its borders. They are convinced that a settlement of the existing contradictions and a decision on Afghanistan's future development is a matter, first and foremost, for Afghans themselves. The sides intend to continue maintaining strict neutrality and abiding by the principle of noninterference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. Russia and Uzbekistan are willing to do their utmost to facilitate the achievement of these objectives within the framework of general international efforts, cooperating with the United Nations and all interested states.

In this connection, the ministers stressed the timeliness of the initiatives that the Uzbek president presented at the 48th session of the UN General Assembly concerning a settlement of regional conflicts in Central Asia, including the Afghan problem. They emphasized their readiness to take part in their joint implementation.

The sides confirm their readiness to develop goodneighborly relations and comprehensive, mutually advantageous cooperation with a peaceful, independent, and sovereign Afghanistan in the interests of mutual understanding and confidence in the region."

Armenia

Azeri Attacks Rebuffed; 2 Rayons Bombed 8 Feb

NC0902170894 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1430 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] The situation throughout the front line in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] was tense yesterday and last night. Despite their casualties, Azerbaijan's Armed Forces made a significant effort to advance against the Armenian defense positions on various parts of the front line.

Bagram Aghadzhanyan, our correspondent in Stepanakert, quotes a statement by the NKR Defense Forces that Azerbaijan's military units tried to attack Matavis and [placename indistinct] in Mardakertskiy Rayon early yesterday morning. Serious clashes took place and both sides had casualties. An effort is being made to determine the outcome of the fighting. Elsewhere, NKR units rebuffed the latest enemy attacks in Kelbadzharskiy Rayon.

Six of Azerbaijan's military aircraft violated NKR airspace for 10 minutes and bombed several peaceful residential areas in Askeranskiy and Mardakertskiy Rayons yesterday.

Air Activity, Fighting Updated

NC0902225494 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 2050 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] The Armenian Defense Ministry press service reported that a relative calm prevailed on the Republic's borders since last night.

However, the same source reported that Azerbaijani Air Force planes again violated Armenia's airspace during the daytime yesterday. Two bombers appeared over the borders of Vardenisskiy Rayon at noon and then flew south at a considerable height over Kelbadzharskiy Rayon. One of them violated Armenia's airspace in Gorisskiy Rayon at around 1500 and dropped three cluster bombs in the border zone. The other flew toward Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR].

Four Azerbaijani aircraft carried out reconnaissance flights over the border regions of Gorisskiy Rayon at 1700 on the same day. They immediately left the region when faced with measures taken by the Armenian air-defense forces.

Though a relative calm is being maintained along most of the war front in Karabakh, Azerbaijani troops are still attacking the Karabakh positions in certain sectors.

NKR Defense Army press service reported that following an artillery barrage this morning, the enemy resumed the offensive against the southeastern sector. According to information received at noon, the Karabakh army formations were managing to halt the Azerbaijani attacks.

Only positional exchange of fire is taking place in the rest of the conflict zone.

Ter-Petrosyan, Hurd Hold Talks; Sign Agreements

LD1002111494 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0730 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] The situation in Armenia, the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh, and the state of bilateral relations were discussed in London on Wednesday by Great Britain's Prime Minister John Major and Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, who has arrived there on an official visit. The English side expressed interest in a settlement of the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh as soon as possible.

As reported to ITAR-TASS at Major's office, three bilateral agreements were signed on the same day—a declaration on friendship and cooperation, an agreement on air communications between the two countries, and an agreement on cultural exchanges.

Minister Papazyan Hails Iran's Karabakh Efforts

LD0902152194 Tehran IRNA in English 1336 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow, Feb. 9, IRNA—Armenia's Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan here Tuesday appreciated Iran's efforts to establish peace and stability in the region. Referring to various agreements reached between the two countries as well as the exchange of delegations, Papazyan in a telephone interview with IRNA stressed that Tehran-Yerevan relations are friendly. He also praised Iran's mediation efforts and good-will in resolving the Karabakh issue.

He also assessed as positive the political, economic and cultural cooperation between the two countries and underlined the need to further expand these ties. Papazyan said his country agreed with Iranian and Russian views on preventing the internationalization of the Karabakh conflict, but regretted that no international organization had taken any positive step in this regard.

Diplomats Visit UAE on 'Special Mission'

NC1002054694 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 2050 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Eduard Nalbandyan, the Armenian charge d'affaires ad interim in Egypt, and Bogos Akobov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, who arrived in Abu Dhabi today on an special mission, met the Deputy Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] Shaykh Adham Al Nuhayyan and handed him a message from the Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan to the President of UAE Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry press and public relations service reported that matters pertaining to the establishment and development of ties between the two countries were discussed in a friendly and warm atmosphere.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev, Turkey's Demirel Sign Friendship Accord

LD1002124594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1051 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Feoktistov]

[Text] Ankara, 10 Feb—Turkish President Suleyman Demirel and Azerbaijan President Geydar Aliyev, who is on an official visit here yesterday signed an agreement "On Friendship and All-Around Cooperation" between both countries.

The agreement has 10 years to run and can be extended at two yearly intervals afterward. It provides for the "adoption of essential measures by each country to render assistance to the other country that was attacked, in keeping with UN treaties and other international obligations."

Azerbaijan and Turkey signed 15 more documents concerning political consultations, stimulating investments, customs benefits, the repeal of dual taxation, interaction in the area of culture, health protection, science, and sport.

According to the Azerbaijani president, the agreements with Turkey open up a new period in the relations of friendship and cooperation between both countries.

Troops Launch New Offensive, Meet Resistance

LD0902181694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1746 GMT 9 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—Azerbaijani troops launched a new offensive in the southeastern section of the Nagorno-Karabakh front on Wednesday but met fierce resistance of the Karabakh defence army, the Nagorno-Karabakh defence army headquarters told ITAR-TASS by phone.

The report said that the situation in other sections of the front remained relatively calm, meaning that the sides were exchanging fire but did not mount offensives.

The Azerbaijani army has lost up to 5,000 soldiers and officers, one warplane and 62 armoured vehicles, including 36 tanks, in the 1.5-month large-scale offensive it launched on December 18, 1993. It also lost 12 artillery guns, including three Grad missile launchers, and a large amount of other arms. Twenty six Azerbaijani soldiers have surrendered.

The Karabakh side lost about 300 people and 24 armoured vehicles which have been fully made up for by seized Azerbaijani tanks and armoured personnel carriers.

The Nagorno-Karabakh military explain the decline in the activity of the Azerbaijani army by considerable losses, especially among new recruiters who make up the bulk of its troops, and the absence of big positive results. Karabakh experts said that Azerbaijan's initial successes owed to its strength superiority. They were of a local nature and were eventually neutralised by the Karabakh forces.

Georgia

Abkhazia Agrees to Peacekeepers Along Inguri Border

LD1002125594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1108 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi February 10 TASS—The Abkhazian leadership has agreed with the proposed deployment of peace-keeping forces along the border river of Inguri, but not in Abkhazia itself.

Abkhazian Prime-Minister Sokrat Dzhindzholia told ITAR-TASS on Thursday that "this is necessary to prevent new combat activities and stabilize the situation".

Commenting on the joint message sent by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and head of the Georgian state Eduard Shevardnadze to the U.N. secretary-general, Dzhindzholia agreed that the U.N.-and Russia-brokered accords between Georgia and Abkhazia in Geneva indeed "mentioned the deployment of peace-keepers just along the border line but not on the territory of Abkhazia itself".

Yeltsin and Shevardnadze proposed that the Security Council discuss "the launching, by the United Nations or with its approval, of a peace-making operation, involving, if necessary, a Russian military contingent".

Dzhindzholia said it was inadmissible for peace-keepers to carry out police functions giving them the right to maintain public order and disarm the Abkhazian Army.

The prime minister rejected Georgian media reports, which claimed that the recent military operation staged by the Abkhazian forces in the Gali region was directed against the civilian population of Georgian villages. "The operation was aimed against groups of terrorists, not against civilians", he stressed.

"Every state has the right to maintain order on its territory using its own forces. That is exactly what we are doing", Dzhindzholia said.

Ministry Condemns Gudauta Acts in Gali Rayon

LD0902130594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1153 GMT 9 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS-GIA correspondent]

[Text] Tbilisi, 9 Feb—The Georgian Foreign Ministry has issued a statement saying that events in Abkhazia in recent days clearly hinder the process of a peaceful settlement of the conflict in that region.

It has become known, the document says, that during their latest advance on 7-8 February, the Gudauta separatists used 12 items of heavy machinery, howitzers, and Grad installations as a result of which six villages in Galskiy [Gali] Rayon were destroyed. More than 100 people were killed, and the homes of about 800 families was burned down. People were taken prisoner and seized as hostages.

This action, the statement says, was carried out on the eve of the work in Moscow of a mixed group of experts on the status of Abkhazia and on the eve of the return of refugees and displaced people to Galskiy Rayon, envisaged by the results of the Geneva talks, and was planned with the clear aim of preventing the return of the refugees. These actions not only contradict the resolutions of the Security Council but also pursue the aim of hindering the process of normalization of Russian-Georgian relations.

Expressing a resolute protest in connection with the crude violations of the Geneva accords, the Georgian Foreign Ministry calls on the United Nations, the CSCE, and the Russian Federation to activate all the mechanisms at their disposal to prevent any further escalation of the conflict, which threatens peace and stability throughout the Caucasus region.

NDP Leader Chanturiya Advocates 'Partisan' War

AU1002110394 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 2 Feb 94 p 1

[Interview with Giorgiy Chanturiya, leader of the National-Democratic Party, by SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA correspondent Beso Tskhoragueli; place and date not given: "The View of the National-Democrats"]

[Text] Giorgiy Chanturiya, leader of the National-Democratic Party, delivered a statement on the necessity of launching a partisan war in Abkhazia. Our correspondent asked him to comment further on this.

[Chanturiya] We have lost the war. This is a fact. Moreover, Georgia is not in a position today to wage a full-scale war. We will be ready to do this only when we have a full-fledged state and, as a consequence of this, a real battleworthy army. The only thing that we can really do is to wage a partisan war. We should not allow our enemies to relax for a minute. Otherwise, in a year or two, we will be faced with new realities with which we will have to come to terms and then Abkhazia will also be lost from the legal point of view.

[Tskhoragueli] What about the peace talks, the peacekeeping forces, the return of the refugees...?

[Chanturiya] I am not against peace talks so long as they enable us to win time.

As for peacekeeping forces, this is a tall story with which they are trying to console us. There will be no UN troops there. The role of peacekeepers will be fulfilled by the same forces that were there before.

Only those people who agree to register themselves as Abkhazians can return to Abkhazia today.... If we want to lose Abkhazia forever and accelerate the process of the Abkhazation of Georgians and, finally, legalize the results of the war, we should agree to the introduction of Russian troops into Abkhazia. If not, I once more repeat that the only way out, proceeding from current realities, is a partisan war.

[Tskhoragueli] You spoke of antigovernment actions that are being prepared. Do you have grounds for making such a statement or is this just supposition?

[Chanturiya] The new government is repeating many of the mistakes that Gamsakhurdia made. The mass media has again been monopolized.

The population is on the brink of a social explosion and there already exist specific forces that are ready to take advantage of this. Our party is opposed to any kind of confrontations since this would be the final blow for Georgia. However, events are developing precisely in this direction. "Dark" forces are just waiting for the right climatic conditions.

Parliament Appeals to Russian Assembly on Abkhazia

LD0902191794 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1610 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] The Georgian parliament has appealed to the Russian Federal Assembly over the latest outbreak of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict.

It has emerged that some Russian parliamentarians link the normalization of Georgian-Russian interstate relations to the settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. Owing to this, they, together with Abkhaz separatists, went as far as demanding that President Boris Yeltsin's offical visit to Tbilisi should have been canceled. The historic visit did go ahead and a package of interstate agreements was signed, which answers the (?vital strategic) interests of our peoples.

As if to avenge the frustration of their plans, Abkhaz separatists, actively supported by North Caucasian militants and other mercenaries from the Russian Federation, launched a new punitive action against the Georgian population still remaining in Gali rayon, in effect, completing the ethnic cleansing and genocide of the Georgians in Abkhazia.

All this is happening at a time when, according to the Geneva accords, a stage-by-stage return of the refugees and displaced persons to Abkhazia was due to start on 10 February, while on 8 February, a Georgian delegation, as part of a joint group of experts, began talks in Moscow on Abkhazia's future status.

We call on you, says the appeal, to go deep in understanding the essence of the tragedy unfolding in Georgia, to assess in time the threat posed by aggressive separatism not only to our country but also to all multi-ethnic states, to take necessary measures, so that the Russian Federation can perform the function of guarantor and mediator in the peaceful settlement of the conflict, to ensure the inviolability of the state border between Russia and Georgia and prevent armed formations from crossing it from Russian territory into Georgia.

We also call on you to start an interparliamentary dialogue, since our supreme legislative bodies have the responsibility for choosing the right political course aimed at saving our peoples from the horrors of fratricidal war, destruction and chaos.

Shevardnadze Appeals to Yeltsin Over Abkhazia

LD0902171094 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Russian 1610 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze has sent an appeal to the Russia's President Boris Yeltsin. The appeal says in particular:

We have chosen a peaceful way of settling the conflict in Abkhazia. The hallmark of the Abkhazian separatists is easily recognized in the tragedy which has unfolded recently. They are continuing their practice of ethnic cleansing and terror against civilians. All this shows that the Abkhazian side is not interested in establishing, since the latest tragedy which unfolded in Gali rayon coincided with the timing of the return of displaced people to Abkhazia, as envisaged by the Geneva talks.

The only solution is to speed up a UN-sanctioned deployment of peace-keeping forces in Abkhazia and to establish strict international supervision.

The start of the normalization of relations between Russia and Georgia, which by itself is the foundation for the establishment of peace in the Transcaucasus, has evoked a wide response from beyond the borders of our countries.

I appeal to the leadership of Russia, on whose mediation and peacemaking role largely depends the future of peace in Georgia, in particular Abkhazia, to take all measures for a peaceful settlement of the conflict and a (?dignified) return of the refugees.

Shevardnadze Appeals for UN Peacekeepers

LD0902215694 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1900 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Letter from Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali; read by announcer]

[Text] To His Excellency UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

Esteemed Mr. Secretary General, I would like to greet you and convey to you my people's best wishes.

I had to write this letter because of a further deterioration of the situation in Abkhazia, which, as you know full well, was already extremely tense. The Abkhaz separatists have repudiated their obligations under the memorandum signed in Geneva on 1 December 1993 and the communique adopted on 13 January 1994, and on 7 and 8 February of this year launched a new Fascist action.

An about 1,000-strong group with heavy equipment attacked Georgian villages in Gali Rayon, burned down up to 800 residential houses, and staged the mass killing of civilians. Several thousand Georgians were uprooted from their permanent places of residence and joined the tens of thousands of displaced people and refugees. Mountain villages in Gali Rayon beyond the reach of the armed groups of separatists were shelled with heavy artillery.

The hallmark of Abkhaz separatists can be easily recognized in the latest disaster. Their common practice of ethnic cleansing and terror against civilians is continuing. All this shows that the Abkhaz side is not interested in the establishment of peace.

Let me remind you, Mr. Secretary General, that the large-scale punitive operation was carried out against the population of the rayon where, under the Geneva communique of 13 January 1994, the first stage of the return of the displaced persons and refugees should have started on 10 February. Events of the last few days suggest that the stepping up of military operations by the Abkhaz separatists is aimed at wrecking the UN Security Council resolutions, the process of normalization in relations between Russia and Georgia, and the establishment of peace throughout the Caucasus region.

We have chosen a peaceful way of conflict settlement. An alternative to this way is military escalation and the resumption of hostilities, which will result in the spreading of the conflict zone, enormous casualties, and a great disaster—not only for Georgia.

The only solution is to speed up the sanctioning by the United Nations of the deployment of peace-keeping forces in Abkhazia and to introduce strict international supervision.

I appeal once again to the United Nations Organization, the Security Council, all its members-states. I appeal to you to take a decision without delay on the deployment of a peacekeeping force and the immediate return of the refugees.

I appeal to the leadership of Russia, on whose mediation and peace mission to a large extent depends the future of peace in Georgia and, in particular, Abkhazia. Take all measures for a peaceful settlement of the conflict and a timely return of the refugees.

I hope that at this most difficult time for the Georgian people, the United Nations and its Security Council in particular will have a principled examination of this issue, which causes us so much pain, and will take a decision to send peacekeeping forces to the conflict area immediately.

In the event of the opposite, an escalation of the conflict can be expected not only in Abkhazia but also in the whole of Georgia, which may result in unforeseen tragic consequences throughout the Caucasus.

I would like to express my gratitude for your constant striving for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia and assure you of my best [word indistinct].

Yours sincerely,

[Signed] Eduard Shevardnadze, Tbilisi.

[dated] (?9) February 1994.

Paper Publishes Friendship Treaty With Russia

AU0902193694 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 4 Feb 94 p 1, 2

["Treaty on Friendship, Good-Neighborliness, and Cooperation Between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Georgia" signed in Tbilisi on 3 February]

[Text] The Russian Federation and the Republic of Georgia, basing themselves on ties that have taken shape throughout history and the traditions of contact between their peoples that are many centuries old, considering that the development and strengthening of relations of friendship, good-neighborliness, and mutually advantageous equal cooperation corresponds to the national interests of both states, recognizing the expediency of coordinated actions on the international arena in the interest of strengthening peace, security, and stability in Europe and the world, determined to build democratic rule-of-law states on their territories, aspiring to develop comprehensively relations between the two countries and impart a new quality to them, being guided by the aims and principles of the UN Charter, have agreed to the following:

Article 1

The high contracting parties will build their relations as friendly states. They undertake to be steadfastly guided by the principles of mutual respect for state sovereignty, territorial integrity and the inviolability of borders, the equality and rights of peoples, the right to decide their own fate, noninterference in one another's internal affairs, the nonuse of force or threat of force, including economic and other methods of pressure, the peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, cooperation and the conscientious fulfillment of international obligations, and also other universally recognized rules of international law.

Article 2

The high contracting parties will interact in order to strengthen peace, and increase stability and security both on a global and regional scale.

They will contribute to the continuation of the process of disarmament, the formation and strengthening of systems and institutions of collective security, the strengthening of the peacekeeping role of the UN and the CSCE, and increasing the effectiveness of regional mechanisms of security and cooperation. The sides will promote the settlement of regional conflicts and crisis situations and correlate their positions in order to implement coordinated actions when necessary.

The high contracting parties will hold consultations on a regular basis on issues mentioned in this article that are of mutual interest.

Article 3

The high contracting parties recognize each other's inalienable right to take the necessary measures in order to protect their state borders, being guided by the principles of good-neighborliness and the mutual consideration of their interests. In cases of mutual interest, on the basis of separate agreements, the sides will determine the procedure and the conditions for joint protection of agreed sections of state borders.

The high contracting parties, independently resolving questions of ensuring national security and the organization of defense, will, to this end, engage in close cooperation and practical interaction. The forms of and procedure for interaction in this sphere will be regulated by separate agreements. The parties will adopt measures on the effective implementation of agreements on the temporary presence of Russian Federation military units on the territory of the Republic of Georgia and also conclude agreements on rendering assistance in the creation of the Republic of Georgia Armed Forces and equipping them, and procuring weapons, military hardware, and technology without the right to transfer them to third countries other than with the consent of the Russian Federation.

The parties will determine by a separate agreement the procedure for using the means of control of air space and space and also other technical means of control.

Article 4

The high contracting parties will not participate in any kind of alliances or blocs that are directed against either of them.

Each of the high contracting parties will refrain from participating in any actions or measures directed against the other party and from supporting them and will not permit its territory to be used for the preparation or implementation of aggression or other violent actions against the other high contracting party. With this aim, the parties will undertake all measures to halt attempts to use their territory for the creation of sabotage groups and hired formations and sending them onto the territory of the other party in order to overthrow or change its constitutional system or violate its territorial integrity. The high contracting parties will not render assistance to third states when armed conflicts arise between these states and the other party.

Article 5

In the event of a situation arising that, in the view of one of the high contracting parties, creates a threat to peace or violates the interests of its security and, also, in the event of an act of aggression being committed against any of the parties, the high contracting parties will bring into action the mechanism of joint consultations in order to coordinate their positions and adopt measures aimed at removing the threat that has arisen.

Article 6

By concluding separate agreements, the high contracting parties will set up joint commissions that might be required to implement the points contained in Articles 2-5 of this treaty.

Article 7

The high contracting parties will guarantee their citizens equal rights and freedoms, irrespective of their nationality, sex, language, religion, and political and other convictions.

Each of the high contracting parties will guarantee all persons living on its territory civil, political, social, economic, and cultural rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the UN Charter, other universally recognized rules of international law and obligations adopted within the framework of the CSCE, and also its legislation.

The high contracting parties recognize each other's right, while respecting the state sovereignty of the other party, to act in defense of the rights of its citizens living on the territory of the other party in accordance with the present treaty, the UN Charter, other universally recognized rules of international law, and obligations adopted within the framework of the CSCE. With this aim, the parties will conclude agreements necessary for guaranteeing the protection of the rights of their citizens.

Article 8

The high contracting parties will guarantee persons living on their territories the right to choose the citizenship of the state in which they are living or citizenship of the other party according to their free will. The procedure for acquiring citizenship of each of the high contracting parties is regulated by its legislation.

Article 9

The high contracting parties confirm that respect for the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, as a part of universally recognized human rights, as well as the observation by them of their obligations to the state, equally with the remaining citizens of the given party, is an important factor of peace, justice, stability, and democracy in the Russian Federation and the Republic of Georgia.

The parties, in accordance with the universally recognized rules of international law and the obligations adopted within the framework of the CSCE, guarantee to persons belonging to national minorities full and effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms without any form of discrimination and in conditions of total equality before the law and also the free expression, preservation, and development of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic, or religious distinctiveness. They will create conditions for promoting this distinctiveness.

The high contracting parties guarantee the rights of persons belonging to national minorities to participate in matters of state in an effective manner and according to their needs.

Article 10

The high contracting parties undertake to implement on their territories the necessary measures, including the adoption of corresponding legislative acts, to avert and halt any actions that represent incitement to violence, threat or acts of violence against persons or groups on the basis of national, racial, ethnic, or religious intolerance, hostility, or hatred, and also measures to protect their property.

Article 11

The high contracting parties will elaborate a series of measures to regulate migrational processes. They will conclude a separate agreement on questions pertaining to visa regulations.

Article 12

The high contracting parties will develop equal and mutually advantageous cooperation in the economy, promoting the formation of Black Sea and general European markets and a common economic space.

The high contracting parties agree to conduct commercial and other economic relations on the basis of mutual advantage and refrain from actions that could harm one another. With this aim, they will conclude the corresponding agreements.

The parties will cooperate and systematically exchange information in the sphere of economic reforms, including structural, monetary and credit, currency, price, taxation, and customs policy.

The sides will interact in various international economic, financial, and other organizations and support one another in joining those international organizations, agreements, and conventions to which one of the high contracting parties is not a signatory.

Article 13

The high contracting parties will promote the development of economic, commercial, and scientific and technical relations at the following levels: bodies of state power and administration, bodies of territorial (municipal) self-administration, banks and the financial system, enterprises, associations, organizations and establishments, joint enterprises and organizations, and individual entrepreneurs.

The high contracting parties will exchange information and conclude separate agreements on specific questions of commercial and economic, scientific and technical, and other forms of cooperation and also monetary and credit and price policy.

The high contracting parties will inform one another in time about economic decisions that could affect the rights and legal interests of the other party.

Article 14

The high contracting parties guarantee favorable economic, financial, and legal conditions for the entrepreneurial and other economic activity of enterprises, organizations, and individual citizens of the other party, including the stimulation and mutual protection of their investments. The parties will encourage different forms of cooperation and direct ties between citizens, enterprises, firms, and other economic subjects of both states.

The parties will work toward concluding a separate agreement on the avoidance of dual taxation.

Article 15

The high contracting parties will interact on an equal basis in order to unite their efforts for the optimal development of key branches of industry and sectors in the agro-industrial complex.

Taking into account each other's legislation and on terms that are mutually beneficial, the parties agree to contribute toward maintaining the specialization of enterprises within the framework of existing collaborative sectoral and intersectoral ties and also promote production and technological cooperation between enterprises regarding the supply of materials and semimanufactured goods and associated items.

Specific obligations relating to these questions will be adopted by the parties on the basis of separate agreements.

Article 16

The legal rules of state property and the property of juridical persons and citizens of one of the high contracting parties located on the territory of the other high contracting party will be regulated by legislation of the country where the property is located, taking into account the universally recognized rules of international law relating to questions of immunity of state property, if other conditions are not provided for by an agreement between the parties.

If one of the high contracting parties announces that it owns property on the territory of the other high contracting party that is being claimed by third persons or states, the other party is obliged to adopt all necessary measures to protect and preserve such property until the matter regarding its ownership has been finally resolved and it does not have the right to hand it over to anyone without the clearly expressed consent of the first party.

All other questions of property relations affecting the interests of the high contracting parties are subject to regulation by separate agreements.

Article 17

The high contracting parties, being Black Sea states, intend to cooperate closely within the framework of the Istanbul Declaration on Economic Cooperation Between the Countries of the Black Sea Region of 25 June 1992. They are ready to develop further all-round cooperation in order to create a single Black Sea economic space, protect and preserve the natural environment of the Black Sea, conduct marine and climatological research, utilize the recreational potential and natural resources of the Black Sea, and develop shipping and the use of sea communications, ports, and facilities.

Article 18

The high contracting parties will cooperate on an equal basis to develop systems of transporting and utilizing oil and natural gas, bear responsibility for ensuring their uninterrupted and safe functioning on their individual territories, and aim to coordinate norms and rules for the construction and exploitation of installations in the oil and gas industry.

Article 19

The high contracting parties will pay particular attention to developing cooperation in the spheres of the development of space, including satellite communications, management of electric power, transport, information, and communication systems, while promoting the maintenance and rational utilization and development of complexes and unified systems that have been formed in this sphere.

The parties will conclude separate agreements on the principles of cooperation and conditions of mutual relations in the aforementioned spheres.

Article 20

Taking into account the points in Article 11, the high contracting parties will ensure the unhindered transit of passengers and goods at ports and airports and on railway lines and automobile routes and also pipelines located on their territories.

Article 21

The high contracting parties attach priority significance to cooperation in the sphere of seismology, ecological security, and the protection of the environment and the rational use of natural resources. Acting in accordance with the universally recognized rules of international law and international treaties to which they are signatories, the parties will render one another assistance in eliminating the consequences of natural disasters, preventing environmental pollution, and ensuring the rational and resource- saving use of the environment, promote the elaboration and implementation of joint special programs and projects for protecting the environment, especially in ecologically unsafe regions, and aim to create an all-embracing international system of ecological security and interaction.

Article 22

The high contracting parties are interested in active cooperation in the area of the prevention and elimination of emergency situations caused by environmental and industrial pollution and also in joint international actions connected with humanitarian aid tasks. They will conclude separate agreements on cooperation regarding these questions.

Article 23

The high contracting parties will develop cooperation in the sphere of education and science and technology, promoting direct ties between educational institutions and research and design and planning establishments, the implementation of joint programs and projects, in particular along priority lines and in the sphere of leading technologies.

The high contracting parties will interact and create favorable conditions for the training of cadres and the exchange of scientists, specialists, postgraduates, and students and will recognize each other's educational diplomas and academic titles and degrees. The parties will conclude a separate agreement on questions of science and education.

Article 24

The high contracting parties will adopt measures to ensure broad and effective cooperation in the branch of fundamental and applied scientific research and utilize the achievements of contemporary science and technology. The parties will promote the expansion of close contacts on a long-term basis between their academies and scientific centers and will encourage the implementation of joint programs and projects and the exchange of scientists, researchers, and graduates and undergraduates. They will promote the creation and activities of joint scientific and research-and-production collectives.

Article 25

The high contracting parties will promote cooperation and contacts in the sphere of culture, the arts, and tourism and sport and the free exchange of information and access to reliable information. They will conclude separate agreements on these questions.

The parties will promote the study of the Russian language in the Republic of Georgia and the Georgian language in the Russian Federation, including in preschool institutions and educational establishments, and encourage the dissemination of works of literature in the respective languages of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Georgia.

The high contracting parties will promote cooperation in these spheres between governmental and nongovernmental organizations and establishments and private organizations and individuals to implement joint projects and the activities of cultural, scientific, and other funds and associations. The parties will conclude an agreement on the opening of cultural centers on each other's territory.

Article 26

The high contracting parties will develop cooperation in the social sphere and in the spheres of labor relations and health protection, while, at the same time, avoiding discrimination toward the citizens of the other party in accordance with the rules of international law. They agree to regulate questions concerning the provision of pensions to citizens of one party who are living on the other party's territory in the shortest periods of time.

The parties will conclude separate agreements on these and other social issues.

Article 27

The high contracting parties will regularly exchange information on the elaboration, adoption, and application of legal acts by each of them and will unite their efforts in order to participate in the preparation of international legal documents.

Article 28

In accordance with the rules of international law and their own legislation, the high contracting parties will actively cooperate in the struggle against organized and international crime and terrorism, including illegal acts directed against the safety of civil aviation, sea vessels, and other forms of transport, the seizure of hostages, contraband, the illegal trade in narcotics and psychotropic substances, and the smuggling of cultural artifacts.

The high contracting parties will conclude separate agreements on cooperation relating to these and other similar questions of mutual interest.

Article 29

The high contracting parties will pay particular attention to the development of contacts and cooperation between the parliaments and parliamentarians of both states.

Article 30

The high contracting parties will conclude between themselves other treaties and agreements that are necessary in order to implement the provisions of this treaty.

Article 31

This treaty does not affect the rights and obligations of the high contracting parties proceeding from other international treaties to which they are signatories.

Article 32

In order to implement this treaty, the high contracting parties will hold consultations on a regular basis, no less than once a year or at the suggestion of one of the parties, and, if necessary, set up corresponding commissions. Possible disputes pertaining to the interpretation of the treaty will be resolved at these consultations.

Article 33

This treaty is subject to ratification and comes into force on the day that the instruments of ratification are exchanged.

Article 34

In accordance with Article 102 of the UN Charter, this treaty will be registered in the secretariat of this organization.

Article 35

This treaty is concluded for a period of 10 years.

It will then be extended automatically for a further five-year period if neither of the high contracting parties notifies in writing its desire to annul it no later than six months before it expires or before the end of the next five-year period.

Concluded in Tbilisi on 3 February 1994 in two copies, each one in Russian and Georgian, and each having equal force.

[Signed] On behalf of the Russian Federation

B.N. Yeltsin

On behalf of the Republic of Georgia

E.A. Shevardnadze

Shevardnadze Sees Signs of Economic Restoration

LD0902232094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2247 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Georgian Leader Eduard Shevardnadze believes that there are signs of the beginning of economic restoration in the country. He said this at the enlarged meeting of the Georgian Cabinet of Ministers on Wednesday.

According to Shevardnadze, Georgia has overcome its political and economic isolation. Namely, it has recently signed a Russian-Georgian treaty and economic agreements.

On the way out of the crisis, the Georgian leader pointed out that the economic processes, including the transition to a market economy, must be controlled by the state.

Shevardnadze pointed out that this primarily meant control over wages and prices which must be in mutual conformity. Taking into consideration the sharp decrease in the Georgian national currency's (coupons) exchange rate he said that another currency might be introduced in the republic and be in parallel use with Georgian coupons. This currency could be rubles or dollars. However, Shevardnadze emphasized that the coupons must be made competitive to the foreign currency.

Shevardnadze Greets New Canadian Ambassador

LD1002015494 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1400 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Peter Hancock, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Canada to Turkey and Georgia, today handed his credentials to head of the Georgian state Eduard Shevardnadze.

Prospects of future cooperation between Georgia and Canada were discussed at the meeting. The necessity for creating a legal basis for relations between the two countries was mentioned.

The head of state familiarized the ambassador with the results of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit. He noted that the day of the meeting was a historic one in the relations of the two neighborly countries and that it gave momentum to establishing new and kind relations between Russia and Georgia.

Eduard Shevardnadze thanked the Canadian Government for its support at international organizations for granting Georgia the status of a developing country.

Update on Recent Georgian Political Developments

PM0902160194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Feb 94 p 1

[Report by Dmitriy Pavshentsev: "In Georgia Not a Day Passes Without an Emergency"]

[Text] Tbilisi—Russian President B. Yeltsin's recent visit to the republic remains the central theme which is being actively discussed both in the press and at an everyday level. And whereas the set of economic agreements has not inspired any particularly emotional assessments, the agreement designed to regulate the presence of the Russian military contingent on Georgian territory has not been spared that fate. It was that fact which predetermined Russia's decision to sign a full 25 documents with the leadership of the one of the most unstable states in the Commonwealth. And this was the main theme of the head of the state's traditional radio interview.

"The presence of foreign troops on the country's territory is not a source of pleasure to anyone," E. Shevardnadze stated. "Georgia, which wants to create its own armed forces, has neither the corresponding base nor the armaments. The functioning of the internal troops and the police is being held up by this problem. We have been forced to agree to compromises in order to resolve these questions and obtain the corresponding aid from Russia."

There has been no reaction from the Georgian parliament yet. Parliamentarians preferred to leave the satisfaction of setting Shevardnadze another obstacle till later—until the next session—so as first to analyze the agreements which have been reached and then be better prepared for the general battle ahead.

Meanwhile, on 8 February the head of state signed an edict on the creation of working groups for the preparation of the state symbols of the Republic of Georgia and also for the drafting of an anti-crisis program and the main principles and predictable parameters of economic and social development for 1994-1995.

Yesterday Shevardnadze paid an urgent visit to Western Georgia where two passenger trains had collided near the village of Kharagauli 200 km from Tbilisi. According to preliminary information three people were killed.

Estonia

Statement Protests Slander Campaign by Russians

*WS1002120694 Tallinn ETA in English 1708 GMT
9 Feb 94*

["News Release"]

[Text] Tallinn, February 9—"The continued attempts of Russian officials to slander Estonia in order to influence world public opinion and international organizations are meant to isolate Estonia from other democratic nations," Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs official statement of Wednesday [9 February] states, adding that Estonia's ambassador to the Russian Federation has been instructed to present a demarche in Moscow in connection with the series of slanderous and incorrect statements by Russian Foreign Minister [FM] Andrey Kozyrev and other Russian officials.

As reported by Interfax, on February 8, FM Kozyrev accused the Baltic States of "ethnic cleansing" and other serious human rights violations, the statement says. In remarks to reporters, he stated, "About one third of the residents are treated differently based upon ethnicity. I have in mind the Russian-speakers—Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians, Jews and even Finns—who are not being given citizenship. They want citizenship, but it is being denied for one reason: ethnicity. If this is not 'ethnic cleansing' what is it?"

"Since numerous UN, CSCE, Council of Europe and other international delegations have all reaffirmed that the situation in Estonia fully measures up to international human rights standards, the question arises: Who is not telling the truth, the international organizations or the politician who has repeatedly declared Estonia to be part of Russia's sphere of interest, the so- called near abroad?" the Foreign Ministry's statement says.

The Foreign Ministry affirms that the laws of the Republic of Estonia "allow everyone to acquire citizenship regardless of ethnicity".

There is a positive aspect to the Russian Foreign Minister's comments on February 8, too, the statement continues. Namely, he presented an important historical position which has caused many bi-lateral disagreements due to differing interpretations. FM Kozyrev said, "I admit the crimes of the Stalin regime, but we cannot forget that these were carried out by political powers—on the one side Stalin, on the other Hitler—who signed the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact."

"It is to be hoped that the Russian Foreign Minister will be able to take the next step and to admit that the Baltic States were occupied by the Soviet Union in 1940," the Foreign Ministry's statement concludes.

Envoy Delivers Protest

LD1002120094 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1000 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Estonian Ambassador to Russia Juri Kahn handed over an Estonian Foreign Ministry protest in Moscow today, in connection with the continued Russian campaign of statements distorting the reality in Estonia.

The Riigikogu has issued a statement on increasing imperialist tendencies in Russian foreign policy. The Riigikogu voices resolute protest against the increasing imperialist tendencies in the Russian foreign policy according to which the Baltic countries fall within the Russian sphere of influence. Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has consistently justified the continued Russian troop presence on the territory of the Republic of Estonia, against the will of the Estonian people and the norms of international law. Statements made against Estonia by Russian Government members are in conflict with the UN Charter and the provisions of the CSCE final acts, which Russia, too, has pledged to observe in its foreign policy. The Riigikogu draws the attention of the parliaments of all countries to the fact that in 1992, at a CSCE Helsinki summit, Russia took upon itself the obligation of withdrawing its troops from the territory of the Baltic states quickly, in an orderly manner, and completely, without setting any additional conditions.

[Words indistinct] for this reason the development of relations between Estonia and Russia has run into a deadlock. The Riigikogu holds the position that for the purpose of developing relations between countries it is essential to proceed from the principles of respect for a country's sovereignty and equality, from those countries' legislative acts, and from the principle of mutual interest.

Case Brought Against Zhirinovskiy Party Official

*WS0902112694 Tallinn BNS in English 0751 GMT
9 Feb 94*

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 08, BNS—Estonia on Friday [4 February] initiated criminal proceedings against Pyotr Rozhok, the representative of Russia's radical nationalist Liberal Democratic Party in Estonia.

Charges were brought under Article 72 of the criminal code, the minister of population, Peeter Olesk, said.

Olesk told a BNS correspondent that Rozhok now cannot be deported from the country—and that there is no reason to do so—before the case is brought to a conclusion.

The issue also stood on the agenda of today's meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers. The Cabinet heard the opinion of Interior Minister Heiki Arike on the issue.

The director general of the Defense Police, Juri Pihl, said it was his department that had initiated the criminal case. "He has not been arrested so far," Pihl said.

Rozhok in an interview with BNS at about 4 p.m. today said he knew nothing of the charges brought against him. He said he had no contacts with the security police recently.

The representative of Zhirinovskiy's party in Estonia said he had no intention to leave the country. "But why?" he asked, explaining that he is living on a territory that is Russia's domain for ages.

Vasiliy Ostapchuk, adviser at the Russian Embassy in Tallinn, said Rozhok had not turned to the embassy for help. "If Rozhok appeals to us for help, we can act under the consular convention and the legal assistance agreement," he said.

The criminal code's Article 72 foresees punishments ranging from fines to one year in prison for activity aimed at instigating ethnic, racial or religious hostility.

Rozhok in his public statements on several occasions has expressed views hostile toward Estonia. In an interview with the SILLAMAESKI VESTNIK newspaper of the northeast Estonian town of Sillamae last month he called on Russian army veterans to form paramilitary units "for defending the (Russians') honor and dignity" and again claimed Estonia was Russia's traditional domain.

Rozhok is legally a citizen of Russia since May 28, 1992.

Zhirinovskiy Warns Against Prosecution

WS1002112394 Tallinn BNS in English 1921 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow, Feb 09, BNS—Russian militant nationalist Liberal Democratic Party leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy voiced outspoken threats against each and every one of ethnic Estonians if Estonia decided on legal action against his representative in the country.

"Warn the Estonian Government that even if a hair should fall from the head of the representative of Russian Liberal Democratic Party, Pyotr Rozhok, the Estonian Government will have to think about the fate of 900,000 Estonians," Zhirinovsky told a BNS correspondent today.

"I swap one Rozhok for 900,000 Estonians," he said when asked to comment on charges brought against the representative of his party in Estonia. Rozhok has been charged for instigating inter-ethnic hostility.

"If Rozhok is put into an Estonian jail, end will come to Estonia and Tallinn. We will implement such measures that the Estonians will forget that they are Estonians," Zhirinovsky said without hiding his emotion, then turning his back to the BNS correspondent.

The extremist leader's remarks were hailed by the group accompanying him.

Defense Minister, U.S. Ambassador Discuss Cooperation

WS1002113494 Tallinn BNS in English 1601 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 09, BNS—Estonian Defense Minister Indrek Kannik today had a meeting with the U.S Ambassador to Estonia, Robert C. Frasure.

Also participating in the meeting were representatives of the "Military to Military Contact" program.

The U.S. ambassador spoke about the United States' general cooperation program in the military sector for Central and East Europe, and stopped at some length on further prospects in working closely on embassy and military attache level.

The Estonian defense minister was presented with a review of the possibilities offered by the "Military to Military Contact" program.

Israeli Arms Go to Army; Soviet-Made Guns to Paramilitary

WS1002113294 Tallinn BNS in English 1601 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 09, BNS—The Estonian defense forces will be armed mostly with Israeli-made weapons of the NATO standards and the Defense League is to get weapons of Soviet origin, the country's Chief of Staff Ants Laaneots said in a press conference today.

Laaneots said the Army will mainly get 5.56 mm and 7.62 mm guns. The 7.62-mm PKT standard machine guns, received from Israel as a gift, will be used on armored vehicles. The same shipment's 23 mm anti-aircraft cannons will add strength to the Army's anti-aircraft weaponry.

The only weapons in the consignment that fail to correspond to NATO standards are 23 mm cannons. NATO uses the 20 mm version.

The Defense Union paramilitary's arms list will comprise 7.62 mm Soviet-made guns, as well as RPD machine guns of the same caliber received in gift from Israel.

Laaneots said the Defense League will also get anti-tank bomb throwers, which will make the volunteer league a "notable military force" in 1994.

The police will have 9 mm guns, mainly Mini-Uzis. An emergency task force will get 5.45 mm Soviet-made machine guns.

Part of the Israeli weapons will go to the border forces. The Chief of Staff said border guard forces had also received light anti-tank weapons.

Laaneots said the division of the weapons as made now was of temporary character, adding that the system was needed to ensure proper servicing and right ammunition supplies.

He also assured that the country was facing no problems in obtaining ammunition for the guns purchased from Israel, as cartridges for the respective sizes are manufactured in most of Europe's industrially developed countries.

Norway Minister on Fast Baltic Integration in NATO

WS1002112294 Tallinn BNS in English 1921 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 09, BNS—A fast integration of the Baltic states into NATO would be of advantage to the whole of Europe, Norwegian Defense Minister Jorgen Kosmo said today.

Kosmo made the remarks in his speech at the Viking Revue '94 conference of NATO's North European group.

The mayor of Russia's St. Petersburg, Anatoliy Sobchak, in his response termed the position of the Norwegian minister as "very dangerous."

Sobchak in his address to the conference among other issues reasserted Russia's stance that the regions of Jaanilinn (Ivangorod) and Petseri were traditional Russian lands and that Estonia's claims for these areas were lacking any grounds.

He also said that "a rise of nationalism" was in evidence in many former republics of what was once the Soviet Union.

The Estonian delegation to the Viking Revue meeting comprises the commander-in-chief of the country's defense forces, General Aleksander Einseln, and deputy chancellor of the Defense Ministry, Tarmo Molder.

Latvia

Cabinet Agrees To Let Russia Keep Radar Station

LD0902203894 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2000 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs announced today that the Cabinet of Ministers has agreed to allow Russia to keep the Skrunda radar station at its disposal for a period, because Latvia's previous obstinacy on the issue of the full withdrawal of the Russian troops seems to be gradually losing Western support. This decision by the Latvian Government was motivated, Birkavs said, by the claim that in the event that Latvia continues to decline to compromise on the issue of the withdrawal of the Russian troops, it could lose the support of European countries and the United States.

According to the (?previously) reached agreement, Russia will maintain the Skrunda radar station for four years as its property, and after the end of this period, dismantling of the site will be carried out over 18 months.

Authorities Seek To Evict Russian Generals

LD1002103394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0827 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Riga February 10 TASS—The Latvian authorities want to evict Russian General Anatoliy Vodopyanov from his apartment, whom they tried to deport handcuffed from the country on January 10 last. Beside him two other generals and a captain of the Russian Army have received notices from district authorities to vacate the apartments they are occupying. In this connection the commander of the North-West Group of Troops has sent a letter to the prime minister of Latvia.

The letter stresses that the ultimatum demand to vacate apartments containing a threat to use force, is especially characteristic of two Riga districts. All these apartments belong to the Russian Defence Ministry Residential Foundation and their further use is a topic to be discussed at talks between the two countries.

One of the notices has been signed by head of the Vidzem District of Riga Andreis Ruchs, who had organized a scandalous action against two generals a month ago. The Latvian Government had relieved him of his post. But he has been once again nominated to this post by deputies of the district. That is why the republican prosecutor's office has asked parliament to permit a criminal case to be lodged against him. But it turned out that Sejm (parliament) does not have the judicial right to do so.

That is why, while discussing the prosecutor's request, Sejm would rather send a letter to the commission and recommend it to prepare amendments to the law on the deputy status. Until then Ruchs and his followers will remain free to add other Russian generals to their list, who in their view, are liable to be deported from Latvia.

Health Official on Drug Situation, Growing Problems

WS0902211594 Riga DIENA in Latvian 29 Jan 94 pp 1, 8

[Article by Agita Berzina: "Number of Drug Addicts Rising in Latvia"]

[Text] Riga, 29 Jan—The death rate among drug addicts in Latvia has increased, the number of drug-related crimes and the number of drug seizures have also risen, and drugs which were previously not available have now appeared on the streets of our country—such were the gloomy facts given to journalists today by Janis Stradins, the chief drug expert at the Health Department.

The most worrying fact—confirmed by statistic data on the problem of drug abuse in Latvia—is the high death rate from willful drug indulgence, explained J. Stradins.

Last year, 47 drug addicts died, in 1992—27 died, in 1991—nine. Most of them died from drug overdoses. In 20 cases, experts could not determine precisely which drug had caused death since several narcotics had been used simultaneously.

The number of crimes related to drug use, storage, and trafficking has also increased. In 1993, 269 people were prosecuted on criminal charges, in 1992—156. Last year, 320 drug dens were discovered, in 1992—210.

The quantity of confiscated drugs is also rising. Last year, 166.2 kg of poppy straw were confiscated, in 1992—114.8 kg. Given our circumstances, these are the most dangerous cases, stated J. Stradins, because addicts, by using relatively simple technology, can extract heroin from the straw. At present, the greatest share of drugs reaching Latvia come from Lithuania, Russia, and southern Ukraine. Thus, poppies from the south, containing more heroin than locally grown ones, are making their way into Latvia.

Another substance widely used by addicts is efedron, which is extracted from medicine already containing the narcotic. It is a very effective drug which creates distinct addiction. Heroin is usually injected one to three times a day, whereas it is necessary to inject efedron as many as 15 times a day.

Marijuana and hashish are being found less and less frequently. But, as J. Stradins stated, there is presumably still quite a considerable volume of trade in these substances.

The most alarming aspect today is the appearance of cocaine. The appearance of this drug is linked primarily with the stabilization of the lat, and there is good reason to think that when the lat becomes convertible, it will be possible to purchase any drug in any amount throughout Latvia.

A letter has been sent to the prime minister, in which he was asked to support the operation "Poppy," similar to one that was organized in 1987, when the growing of poppy was outlawed, reported J. Stradins. In those times, local authorities used to organize campaigns to destroy them. Taking into account the present situation in Latvia, a similar action is now being planned. Stradins said: We understand we cannot gain much by restrictions, but to some extent it is a cry of despair.

Data from Riga police and the Ministry of Home Affairs suggest that there might be between 2,500 and 6,000 drug users in Latvia. According to J. Stradins, these numbers are more close to reality than the number of addicts estimated by the medical service—800.

The most unfavorable situation is in Olaine, also in the district of Riga, in Riga itself (mainly in the suburb of Latgale), Ogre, Jurmala, and Tukums.

Drug abuse is widespread mostly among "Russian speakers," as well as among people from the Caucasus, and Gypsies. Between 80 and 90 percent of addicts receiving medical help are Russian speakers.

The most important element in the fight against drugs is prevention, as was stressed by all members of the conference [not further identified]. It is more effective than any control. Therefore the news that an agreement has been reached with the Scandinavian organization "Parents Against Drugs" to hold their plenary meeting in Riga on 25 February, with the aim of establishing a similar organization in Latvia, is very encouraging. The experience of these states shows clearly that parents can help their children much more, if they have met, discussed their problems together, and exchanged experiences.

Non-Latvians Show Small Progress in Learning Language

WS1002114494 Tallinn BNS in English 1701 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Riga, Feb 09, BNS—The Latvian society is not ready for a mass integration of non-Latvians on the basis of the language skills, said MP [member of parliament] Dzintars Abikis, of the parliament Latvia's Way faction.

The priority in naturalization should be granted to those non-citizens who have finished educational establishments with Latvian teaching language rather than to the spouses of citizens, as stipulated by the present bills, said Abikis.

Non-citizens should take another state language exam before getting citizenship because the present language commissions often issue undeserved language certificates, he said.

In addition, state language inspectors in Riga have faced violence on several occasions, said Abikis. An inspector in the Latgale district, for example, was severely beaten recently.

Abikis claims that the brutal acts are directed against the Latvian state and evidence of reluctance of part of non-Latvians to respect the Latvian nation and its language.

The State Language Center has applied to the Justice Ministry in a bid to receive salary additions from collected fines for breaking of the state language law. State inspectors presently receive 59 lats per month.

The language learning among adults proceeds with difficulties but the younger generation gives grounds to hope for the better, said Abikis. In the largest cities, especially in Daugavpils and Kraslava, many non-Latvian children learn in Latvian-language schools.

The Latvia's Way faction believes that professional training in Latvia should fully transfer to the Latvian teaching language, said Abikis.

Lithuania

Slezevicius on Developing Ties With Ukraine

LD0902172994 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1500 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius claims that Lithuania and Ukraine are entering a very important stage of developing and extending bilateral relations. Bearing in mind the overall situation in our neighboring eastern countries, the development of relations with Ukraine is very important both in the political and the economic sense.

This was stated in today's radio broadcast by the prime minister. He noted that economic instability in Ukraine causes many difficulties in settling accounts between states and he devoted a great deal of attention to this problem during his meeting with President Leonid Kravchuk on Tuesday.

Slezevicius expects that an agreement between the central banks signed in Vilnius will help the settlement of accounts. The contribution by the central bank should be very important, he noted, although, according to him, the part played by the commercial banks is also increasing. As is known, after his dismissal last autumn as chairman of the Bank of Lithuania, Romualdas Visokavicius was accused, among other things, of inability to introduce order in the settlement of accounts with CIS countries.

Ukraine's Increasing Role in Central Europe Viewed

WS1002114394 Tallinn BNS in English 1701 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Vilnius, Feb 09, BNS—Having attained independence, Ukraine will be able to become the third big Slavic country in Europe, Lithuanian MP [member of parliament] Romualdas Ozolas told a news conference Wednesday [9 February].

In Ozolas' view, together with Poland, Ukraine could guarantee stability in Central Europe. The lawmaker said it would be expedient to create a security space in Central Europe but not a Baltic-Black sea axis. "If an axis is necessary, we must talk about an axis from Helsinki to Athens."

Ozolas said the role of Poland would considerably increase in such case and this is why Lithuania needs to clear up its relations with Poles. If Lithuania agrees to sign an agreement on friendship and cooperation with Poland without even mentioning the 1920 occupation of Vilnius and its region by Poland, this will mean capitulation, he said. History can be presented in a form acceptable to both sides, the lawmaker said.

Commenting on a seminar of Baltic and Nordic lawmakers in Riga last week, Ozolas said its participants pointed out a sharp turn in Russia's policy with respect to the Baltic states. He said the change can be regarded as "a stage of the cold war."

Ozolas said Russia's unwillingness to withdraw its troops from Latvia and Estonia proves that deoccupation slows down and tendencies of militarization begin to emerge. "Kaliningrad covers Lithuania, St. Petersburg—Estonia, and the Skrunda base in Latvia would be the third point."

He said the Riga seminar agreed that an agreement on Russian military transit would lead toward military cooperation with Russia.

Left Attacks Haste Over Integration With NATO

PM0902162994 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Feb 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "NATO 'Landing Party' in Vilnius"]

[Text] Straight after President Brazauskas signed the document "Partnership for Peace" in Brussels, the document which envisages Lithuania's gradual integration into NATO, a high-powered delegation from that military organization arrived in Vilnius. The visitors—generals and colonels—will instruct their Lithuanian colleagues in the rational use of resources for the country's defense. In any event, as the guests and their hosts stressed, all spending will pursue one aim—the intensive rapprochement of Lithuania's military, economic, and other structures with the corresponding structures of the NATO countries. The NATO "landing party" in Vilnius is part of the program of synchronized visits by other delegations from the military bloc to countries in central and Eastern Europe. The left-wing opposition is asking this question: Shouldn't a decision as portentous as entry into NATO have been taken only after a referendum of the people on this question?

EU Trade Agreement With Baltics From Jan 1995

LD0902235294 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] A free trade agreement by the European Union with all three Baltic states will come into force on 1 January 1995, Baltic News Service reports.

According to experts, the decision adopted last Monday by the Council of Ministers of the European Union in Brussels, grants some privileges to Lithuania and Latvia. European markets will be open to Lithuanian and

Latvian exports, but imports will be restricted for several years. Estonia intends to trade with the European Union without any restrictions.

According to officials at the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this decision by the European Union will help Lithuania to protect some branches of industry that are so far unable to compete with the European producers. Observers think that Estonia, liberalizing trade with the European Union in a more radical way, will not leave behind its neighbors in striving for membership in the European Union.

Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania should sign together [word indistinct] agreement with the European Union and later become members of this organization.

Presidential Annual Report Delivered to Seimas

WS1002112494 Vilnius ELTA in English 0734 GMT 10 Feb 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 433]

[Text] Vilnius, Feb 9, ELTA—Presidential annual report about the current situation in Lithuania and Lithuania's internal and foreign policy was delivered to Seimas [parliament] members. President is obligated to make the annual report by the Constitution.

On February 10 President Brazauskas will present commentaries on the report. The draft agenda gives half an hour for Brazauskas to speak. Then he will answer to the questions asked by Saeimas members.

The presidential annual report consists of approximately 70 pages.

In the report Brazauskas notes that the current political situation in Lithuania has become calmer after the period of looking for enemies passed. The efficient work of Saeimas was instrumental in stabilizing the political situation, although some contradictions existing in the society is reflected in Saeimas as well. Brazauskas expresses regret that parliamentary competition among political parties often has destructive results.

According to Brazauskas, one of the most important problems is restructuring of the state apparatus. "What we need is not many, but professional state officers", Brazauskas admits. This must be achieved not by apealing to morals, but by adopting a law on state officers.

Brazauskas suggests that the legal system should be reformed as soon as possible because of the increasing crime rates. The report includes statistics—last year's crime rates increased by 6.6 times as compared with 1992.

The report says that at present 14 thousand people are in the military service in Lithuania. Brazauskas notes that this number must be the limit which should not be exceeded. Instead the intellectual potential of the people in the military service should be increased alongside with a better material supply.

Brazauskas considers the economic situation and says that the inflation decreased from 1163 percent in 1992 to 32 percent in 1993.

He expressed regret that investments into the Lithuanian economy were rather small. Foreign investments did not add much to the Lithuanian economy as well.

Until 1994 Lithuania received 430 million US dollars in foreign loans. This year it must pay the interest rates which will make 17 million dollars. But Brazauskas denied statements of some economists that all the credits are used only for the food purchase.

Brazauskas points out positive results in Lithuanian foreign policy, the unity of the three Baltic States among them. A new formula "three plus five" has been strengthening its position in the foreign policy. This is cooperation between the three Baltic and five Nordic countries.

The report notes that "rapprochement between Lithuania and European Union would make positive influence on the life of people". Thus, the agreement on free trade between Lithuania and European Community is considered by Brazauskas as a priority in Lithuanian foreign policy. He hopes that it will be signed in the middle of this year and will come into force in 1995. In the next stage of the relations with EC Lithuania should sign the agreement on associated membership.

Brazauskas admits that at present a new page has been opened in the history of the Lithuanian-Russian relations. However, issues of the compensating the harm which was done during the years of occupation will remain on the agenda of the negotiations with Russia. Brazauskas suggests forming a special group at the Foreign Ministry which will deal with the issues of compensation. Brazauskas emphasizes that Lithuania objects to giving a mandate by the United Nations for Russia according to which Russia will be granted a right to maintain peace keeping in the former USSR territories.

Research Center on 1993 Government Results

WS0902150094 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian 29 Jan 94 No. 20 pp 8, 9

[Report by the Independent Strategic Research Center: "Have We Already Reached the Bottom of the Pit?"]

[Excerpts] **I. The Point of Departure and Our Hopes**

The first year of Prime Minister A. Slezevicius' government is drawing to a close. Undoubtedly, Lithuania's current social and economic situation depends largely on objective reasons. A deep crisis has enveloped all states of the former Soviet Union and countries in its zone of influence without exception. However, it is no less obvious that a country's situation also depends on the wisdom, competence, and subordination of government institutions, on the so-called subjects of the management system.

The vital hopes of Lithuanian inhabitants which they pinned on the new government (formed by the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party, which won the elections) were substantiated. First of all, people expected that the declines in industry and agriculture, which came to light after the declaration of independence and the introduction of hasty and ill-considered reform, would be prevented. They also hoped that the government would manage to halt the drop in living standards. Lithuanian inhabitants placed particularly large hopes on more effective fights against crime, corruption, and shadow structures plaguing the country.

We would be biased if we overlooked the positive efforts of the current government to direct Lithuania's economic and social development toward a positive outcome, and, first of all—the introduction of the litas, the restraint of inflation, the vitalization of political and economic relations with foreign countries, and so on. However, have the expectations of Lithuanian residents been justified, if only partially, over this past year?

We are also raising this question because the political opposition is always ready to transform the accumulated social tensions and mistrust into ultimatums demanding early Seimas [parliament] elections, which, we are convinced, would only aggravate our country's social situation even more.

That is why, in the name of Lithuania's future and its citizens' concord, it is important to assess the work accomplished by the government and its subordinate structures and the country's current economic and social situation objectively, without any embellishments or cover-ups. This must be done not to pass judgment on the government's activities but to search collectively for more effective resolutions to the current situation on the basis of the conducted analysis.

II. The Fall Syndrome

Beginning its work, the government understood the difficult condition of Lithuania's economy and the people's low living standards. [passage omitted]

The new government managed to halt the decline in people's living standards. According to the Statistics Department, the average monthly increase of prices and tariffs for consumer goods in 1993 was 9.2 percent, while that of the average monthly wage was 10.7 percent. Real wages, which dropped by 69 percent in 1992 against those in 1990, were already stabilized in early 1993 and began to grow slightly thereafter. The average wage in November was approximately $64, that is, it rose by $36 in comparison with February.

One must also state, however, that the living standards of the majority of Lithuanian people remain unjustifiably low, and that positive changes fail to eclipse the generally depressing picture. The comparative analysis allows us to draw the conclusion that the larger half of the employed population in Lithuania received lower wages than the real subsistence minimum (170 litai).

We hardly have any reason to state that a positive breakthrough has occurred in the so-called policy of culture (incidentally, in the organization of education, science, and health care).

The criminal situation has not yet been stabilized, and the number of unsolved crimes has not been reduced. [passage omitted]

In our opinion, the key reason for the current social situation and its possible deterioration in the future is the continuing dangerous decline in Lithuania's industrial and agricultural production. For example, in 1993, sales of industrial production plunged by 46 percent, those of cattle, poultry, and milk—by 30 and 12 percent, respectively. The volume of construction and retail turnover skidded by 40 and 37 percent.

Thus, there is a basis for stating that the decline in industrial and agricultural production is continuing and even gaining momentum, and that the so-called "bottom of the pit" has not yet been reached. This fact is also dangerous in terms of hiding in itself and bringing ever closer an outburst of the most painful effect—mass unemployment. In 1993 alone, hidden unemployment in industry effected about 335,000 people. [passage omitted]

III. Looking for Ways Out

One of the key reasons for the crisis we are experiencing is that the laws of a command economy ceased to operate in Lithuania, while those of a market economy have not yet begun to function. This is a peculiar "death zone" from which one can get out only by applying special tough measures of state regulation. The liberalization of prices under conditions of macroeconomic instability and a high level of monopolistic capital have highlighted the position of the monopolistic capital that overshadows the emerging shoots of an open market. The power of the Energy Ministry, whose price policy is leading producers to bankruptcy, or the monopolistic dictate of food processing enterprises to farmers could serve as examples. Meanwhile, the essence of state regulation or antitrust measures is that a flexible financial and credit policy should create equal conditions for competition among different economic units.

Positive moves in improving people's social situation are largely associated with the introduction of the litas and a tough monetary policy. However, there are also some shadow elements in this sphere of economic policy. It need not be reiterated what negative effect the artificially high litas exchange rate exerts on Lithuania's industry. The current credit system may have the most negative effect on producers. Actually all enterprises are indebted and driven to bankruptcy by force by remarkably high credit interest rates, and they are choking in the financial policy loop. Given the fact that a large part of the current budget revenues (more than one-third) comes from industrial enterprises, we can understand what is in store for Lithuania if the activities of banks destroy the financial matters of industrialists. We do not mention the loop of financial settlements on Lithuania's agriculture which is no less painful.

At the same time, we are convinced that there are certain reserves for a more rational utilization of the organizational possibilities of the monetary and fiscal policy. First of all, this applies to the necessity of implementing radical and well-considered reform of the financial and credit system. The analysis of various draft laws regulating the financial process, which are either in preparation or under review, shows that they are drafted without a unified approach or system. [passage omitted]

One must admit with regret that thus far we have only talked about reform in the tax system. Our analysis of the delayed draft law "On the Principles of Taxes" has revealed that it was created without a well-considered concept. The absence of the latter is also responsible for the ambitious debates on the declaration of incomes. One could add that tax laws are drafted without coordinating them with the law on banks, tariffs, and so on. One must also admit that the current government has appeared incapable of properly controlling the collection of taxes, by leaving a large share of the state budget to shadow structures, the so-called uncontrolled free trade, and corrupt and impudent officials.

Undoubtedly, the privatization of industry and agriculture could also be ascribed to the unexhausted reserves for improving Lithuania's economic and social situation. The fact that former governments arranged the privatization of state assets as a campaign of property distribution is a well-known fact. There have been several public statements that the privatization of state property for investment coupons is economically ineffective.

Despite the carelessness and obvious mistakes in privatizing the state property, no program for the upgrading of reform was drafted, the experience of this process was not analyzed and assessed critically, and the remaining unprivatized assets were not inventoried. [passage omitted]

Other unutilized possibilities should also be mentioned. Little was accomplished in developing small and medium-sized businesses. The faults of the monetary and fiscal policy prevented the influx of foreign investments. The problem of settlements among economic entities both inside the country and with partners in the CIS was not resolved. Foreign policy related to the national economy was conducted rather ineffectively. The free trade agreements among the Baltic states and with Belarus and Russia were not properly applied. The drafting of the concept of economic restructuring was protracted, to say nothing of its implementation. It is actually impossible to conduct a flexible customs policy without a clear concept of restructuring.

Everyone understands the important role played by the competence of government officials, and an honest understanding and performance of duties in the state's life and the functioning of its structures. The world knows a number of examples when these traits decided the defeat of a serious crisis. Is everything being done to achieve the impeccable level of such traits and duties, even under the current cultural conditions? Are plans for the training of government officials responsible enough? There are serious grounds to doubt a positive response.

IV. The State's "Achilles' Heel"

It is necessary to deal with agrarian reform separately.

In its April 1993 statement, the current government noted aptly that agrarian reform was most often conducted by administrative methods through imperfect laws, that it was much too politicized, that the ill-considered restoration of land was going on under the cover of reform, and that former economic structures were heedlessly destroyed. Therefore, unpromising small farms measuring from 7 to 8 hectares began to emerge. What can be their future and role in Lithuania's economy?

Being aware of the advantages of large and technologically well-equipped farms, nevertheless, the government lacked determination in correcting the forerunners' mistakes. The actual reason for unsuccessful agrarian reform begun by the former Supreme Council was its goals which were incorrect in principle. The restoration of land was turned into an end in itself. Unfortunately, even after the current government upgraded land reform and the law on property restoration, the restitution of land has remained the same goal in itself. Attempts to introduce conditions for land ownership proved futile. The trouble is that the privatization of land was not included in agrarian reform as its integral part. Thus far, agrarian reform has not been directed at creating an economically more effective and competitive agricultural system. [passage omitted]

It should be stressed that the ill-considered and erroneously implemented Lithuanian agrarian reform not only ruins production but also sets people against each other. Even farmers are more opposed to the government today than landless peasants. Instances of social discord, as the effects of unwise economic and social decisions, are becoming more frequent in Lithuania's rural areas. Such conditions cannot be ignored because they are one of the key sources of general social tension and political opposition, as well as of disappointment and apathy in Lithuania.

By mobilizing all intellectual potential, it is necessary to return to the basic laws on agrarian reform. A seriously ailing countryside also poses a threat to Lithuania's nation and statehood.

V. Lithuania, Where Are You Going?

We repeat once again: There is no reason to believe that the one-year activities of A. Slezevicius' government alone are responsible for the current situation. We should hardly doubt the fact that his government sincerely tried to fulfill its duty. It is unlikely that a coalition government could improve the situation if the former legacy with its structural, functional, and mental basis remained.

There are serious grounds to state that thus far ministries and other offices have not become centers of the state's intellectual and organizational activities that could exert essential and qualitatively new influence on the strengthening of statehood. [passage omitted]

We claim that reform in the bureaucratic government system inherited from the past has become protracted, and that the entire state system of economic management remains seriously sick, with new symptoms of the disease emerging.

In general, thus far, there has not been any more definite vision of the lines along which the Lithuanian nation should develop its statehood. What are the social goals of the restored state? Will the "free market" continue to expand, and will the so-called libertarianism (civilized anarchy) take root? Will Lithuania orient itself consistently toward the model of a state of social accord, welfare, and citizens' democracy? Will it always glance at other states and copy their manners, stereotypes, and norms, or will it, nevertheless, show more determination in looking for the forms of self-awareness (self-organization) that are more suitable to our identity and national character, and that would strengthen not only the chances for the survival of the Lithuanian nation, but also for its more extensive contribution to world culture? [passage omitted]

LDLP Faction Retains Absolute Majority

WS1002114694 Tallinn BNS in English 1701 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Vilnius, Feb 09, BNS—Six factions have been registered in the Lithuanian parliament after its new statute came into effect, Parliament Chairman Ceslovas Jursenas said Tuesday [8 February].

The ruling Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDLP] faction is still the biggest and retained an absolute majority—72 members.

24 members of the former Sajudis and Civic Charter factions made up the new Conservative faction. The Christian Democratic faction and the Democratic faction have 11 and 3 members respectively. According to the new parliament statute, a faction can be made up of no less than 3 lawmakers.

6 social democrats and 4 members of the Polish Union made up their own factions, as well.

The parliament earlier had 7 factions.

Travel Regulations Deal Struck With Belarus

LD0902212094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1937 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Officials of Lithuania and Belarus ended a meeting in Vilnius late on Tuesday by agreeing on a package of agreements on mutual travel regulations.

Vilnius announced last fall that citizens of all CIS states except Belarus would need entry visas to visit the country. Entry visas for Belarusians were to be imposed from January 1, but later rescheduled for March 1.

Foreign ministry officials and experts on both sides have now agreed on the wording of interim agreements on travel regulations, head of the Lithuanian foreign ministry's consular department Rimantas Sidlauskas told Interfax. Agreement was also reached on simplifying the procedure of border crossing for each other's citizens residing in border areas,

Sidlauskas described the deal as interim because the two sides are still to demarcate more than a 700 km-long border separating them.

From March 1, Belarusian travellers can apply for entry visas to Lithuania at the consular department of the Lithuanian embassy in Minsk and at border checkpoints in emergencies.

Citizens of Belarus and other CIS states may also use letters of invitation instead of visas until June 1.

One-time or multiple-use passes will be issued to the residents of border areas on both sides.

The package deal is to be signed soon, Sidlauskas said.

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